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2014 LAVENDER Community Awards

LAVENDER Volume 20, Issue 505

505

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As often as I can — my wife and I spent time this spring in the wine country north of San Francisco. I look for ideas there in everything I see, smell and eat. Since that trip, I've brought back a number of ideas for Marin's menu, including the addition of mushroom ramen.

When you come into Marin, I'd suggest sampling your way through some of our wine finds from the Napa and Sonoma regions. There's nothing better on a warm fall day to grab those last patio moments with a great glass of wine!




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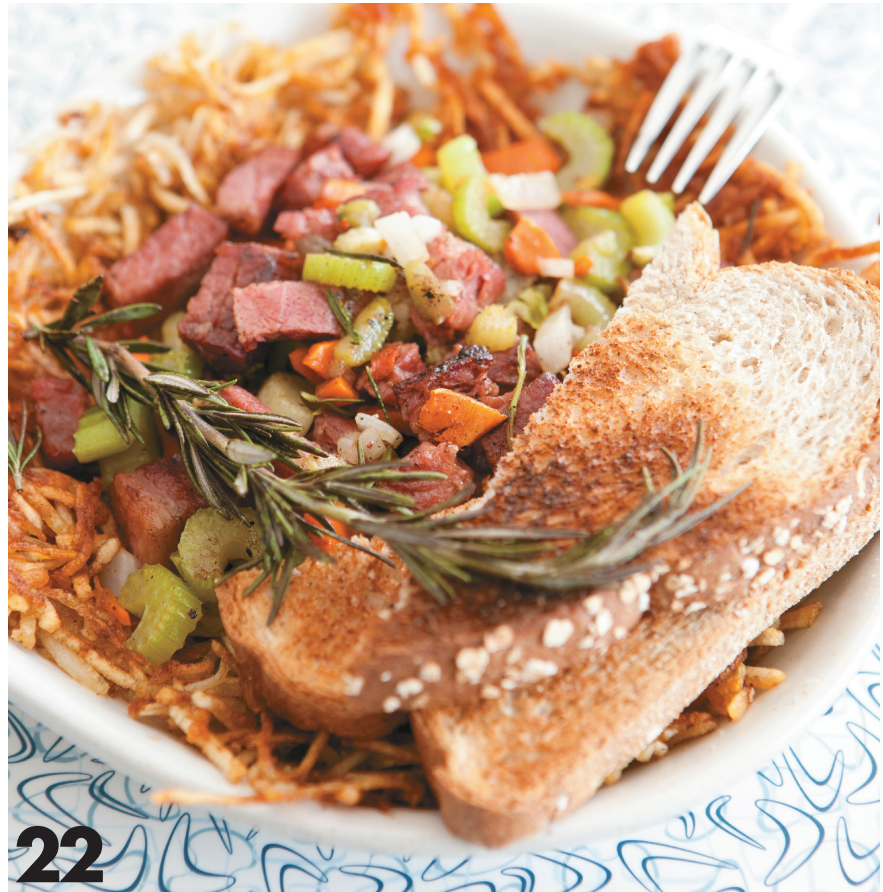
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ON THE COVER

The Lavender Community Awards celebrate the people, organizations, and corporations that work for the advancement of the rainbow community. Read about them starting on page 41.

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2014 Lavender Community Awards

The Lavender Community Awards edition is one of my favorite issues of the year. Have I told you the story yet? The one about how we got to doing it this way? When I came aboard this Lavender ship, we were doing a version of a “Best of” called the “Fab 50.” It relied on voting, finalists, and poring through surveys that told us that this community pretty much loves and shops at everything and everywhere. Then, we had a transition year when we did the Lavender100. We still did the “Best of,” but we added people to the issue—people, organizations, and corporations who you nominated to be recognized in an issue that’s all about the “bests.” Finally, we shed the rest of it and kept the people because, you know, that’s what sets us apart. Our people. I’ll say it until I’m blue in the face, this community is both just the same as—as well as just as diverse as—any other community in our society. What makes us so rich are our people. So here they are.

In these pages are 24 people and organizations deserving of your time and attention. I can’t tell you how many times my congratulatory message informing them of this recognition was met with, “What? But I don’t do anything! I don’t deserve this!” Then, as we went through the process of having them talk about where they’re involved and what they think of certain aspects of their lives and their communities, it became quite clear that they do so much for the advancement of our community and we are fortunate to have them on our team. And I hope they get this, too. I hope they understand that they have both played important roles as well as become important role models.

We couldn’t do this issue without you, the readers, who nominated these people to be honored in this way. You’ve kept your eyes and ears open, you let us know who needs recognition, and you elaborated very

well on what they do to help the rainbow community as representatives of the community and its allies. That’s a very powerful thing to do, to be able to see someone else’s work and shine a light on them. Oftentimes, we think that the attention stops at those who receive awards, but it deserves to be shone on those who single them out for the honors as well. When we lift up others, we elevate ourselves at the same time.

Likewise, when a publication that has been around for over 500 issues calls out the unsung heroes, it elevates itself, as well. When what Lavender can be looked back on next week or in another 500 issues is marking significant people, happenings, and ideas of the rainbow community in this time and place in history, we maintain our relevance both now and into the future.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to represent you, both to ourselves as a community, and to the greater society of which we are a part. Please continue to do what you do as ambassadors and citizens, as well as by lauding and lifting up each other. ■



With you and with thanks,

Andy

\$500 Winner Announced


Lavender celebrated our 500th Issue by throwing a big party in August at which there were drawings and prizes and giveaways for our guests. One of the drawings was for \$500 (a buck an issue).

The drawing took place in our office one afternoon, Linda offering the basket of tickets from which Andy pulled a winning name. Much to our happy surprise, it was Rick Perry, a familiar face from the Minneapolis Movie Bears, various Lavender events, and even a winner of a 2012 Lavender Community Award (with his husband, Eric Blad).

Lavender President & CEO, Stephen Rocheford, presented Rick with his check for \$500. We thank Rick for being a fantastic supporter of Lavender and the community that Lavender represents. Here's to 500 more issues! Congratulations, Rick! ■



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Incidents, Observations, and a Near-Cliché

Michael Brown, an unarmed eighteen-year-old, is shot down by a policeman in Ferguson, Missouri, his corpse left uncovered on the pavement four hours in the summer sun.

New Yorker Eric Garner, 43, is put in a chokehold by officers and held, pinned to the sidewalk despite his gasps of, "I can't breathe," until he dies.

Police claim Victor White, 22, committed suicide, shooting himself, seated in a patrol car, hands cuffed behind his back. The autopsy, however, shows that White, left-handed, was shot in the right side of his chest. From the front.

John Crawford, 22, was killed by police officers in an Ohio Walmart. He was leaning on a pellet gun from the store's toy department, talking on his cell to his girlfriend, mother of his two children, who was also in the store and later reported, "He said he was at the video games playing videos and he went over there by the toy section where the toy guns were. And the next thing I know, he said, 'It's not real!' and the police start shooting and they said 'Get on the ground!' but he was already on the ground because they had shot him."

Keith Vidal, a mentally disturbed, screwdriver-wielding teenager was shot after his parents called 911 for assistance. Vidal, a slight 100 pounds, had been subdued when a third officer arrived, allegedly said, "We haven't got time for this," shot and killed the boy. [I recently

watched a video of a mentally disturbed, machete-wielding Londoner. He was surrounded by a half-dozen officers who distracted, tased, and subdued the man, alive.]

These incidents, and many more too numerous to detail here, have been in the news recently and are to me indicative of police behavior that is increasing across the country: the undeniable violence against black males, and the snowballing militarization of police in general, as evidenced in the case of Vidal, a white youth who was killed as his family tried vainly to intervene.

It is impossible to maintain that race is no longer a problem here in the United States. CNNUS notes that the KKK, "from New York to Texas," is leaving recruitment packages door to door with membership applications and candies. There may be only 5,000-8,000 members nationwide, but their hate and venom are still active, and not restricted to the Klan.

The oft-quoted words of pastor Martin Niemöller interned seven years in Sachsenhausen and Dachau, warn:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me— and there was no one left to speak for me. ■

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In SINGLE, a clinical study with 833 patients who had never taken HIV treatment before:

- **More patients got to undetectable (less than 50 copies of HIV-1 RNA in a milliliter of blood) with TIVICAY 50 mg once daily and abacavir sulfate + lamivudine than with Atripla.[®]** In the study, 88% of patients who took TIVICAY with abacavir sulfate + lamivudine were undetectable vs 81% of patients taking Atripla at 48 weeks.

Patients who took TIVICAY with abacavir sulfate + lamivudine had an average CD4 cell count (CD4 cells are T-cells that help fight infections) increase of 267 cells/mm³ (the number of CD4 cells per cubic millimeter of blood) vs 208 cells/mm³ in patients who took Atripla at 48 weeks.

- **Fewer patients stopped taking TIVICAY due to side effects.** In the study, 2% of patients taking TIVICAY with abacavir sulfate + lamivudine stopped taking medication due to side effects vs 10% of patients taking Atripla. The most common mild side effect for patients on TIVICAY was trouble sleeping—affecting 7% of patients on TIVICAY and 3% of patients on Atripla. The most common medium to severe side effects for patients on TIVICAY were trouble sleeping—affecting 3% of patients on TIVICAY and 2% of patients on Atripla; and headache—affecting 2% of patients on TIVICAY and 2% of patients on Atripla.

In SPRING-2, a clinical study with 822* patients who had never taken HIV treatment before:

- **It was shown that TIVICAY[†] worked as well as raltegravir[†] in getting patients to undetectable (less than 50 copies of HIV-1 RNA in a milliliter of blood).** 88% of patients who took TIVICAY[†] were undetectable vs 86% of patients taking raltegravir[†] at 48 weeks.

About half of the patients who took TIVICAY[†] or raltegravir[†] had a CD4 cell count increase of at least 230 cells/mm³ (the number of CD4 cells per cubic millimeter of blood) at 48 weeks. The other half had increases of 230 cells/mm³ or less.

- **Few patients stopped taking medication due to side effects.** 2% of patients taking TIVICAY[†] stopped taking medication due to side effects vs 2% of patients taking raltegravir[†]. The most common mild side effect for patients on TIVICAY was trouble sleeping—affecting 1% of patients on TIVICAY and less than 1% of patients on raltegravir. The most common medium to severe side effect for patients on TIVICAY was nausea—affecting 1% of patients on TIVICAY and 1% of patients on raltegravir.

*808 patients were included in the study results.

[†]Taken with either abacavir sulfate/lamivudine or emtricitabine/tenofovir.

Your results could vary.

Ask your healthcare provider if TIVICAY is right for you.

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TIVICAY is a prescription HIV medicine that is used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) in adults and children 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 88 pounds. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if TIVICAY is safe and effective in children younger than 12 years or who weigh less than 88 pounds.

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 - **Any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes; dark or tea-colored urine; pale-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; pain, aching, or tenderness on your right side below the ribs.

- **Changes in liver tests.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TIVICAY. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TIVICAY.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines, including increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these problems are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

What are the other possible side effects of TIVICAY?

- The most common side effects of TIVICAY include trouble sleeping and headache.

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of TIVICAY.

Important Safety Information continued on next page.

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However...

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can lower your viral load and increase your CD4 count.



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(dolutegravir)
50 mg tablets
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What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take TIVICAY?

Before taking TIVICAY, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to TIVICAY
- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TIVICAY will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed** if you take TIVICAY. You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if TIVICAY passes into your breast milk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements you take.

TIVICAY and other medicines may affect each other, causing side effects. TIVICAY may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how TIVICAY works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- other HIV-1 medicines including: efavirenz (SUSTIVA®), etravirine (INTELENCE®), fosamprenavir (LEXIVA®)/ritonavir (NORVIR®), nevirapine (VIRAMUNE®), or tipranavir (APTIVUS®)/ritonavir (NORVIR).

- antacids or laxatives that contain aluminum, magnesium, sucralfate (CARAFATE®), or buffered medicines. TIVICAY should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- iron or calcium supplements. Supplements including multivitamins containing calcium or iron may be taken at the same time with TIVICAY if taken with food. Otherwise, TIVICAY should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- anti-seizure medicines: oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN®-125, PHENYTEK®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL®-XR, TERIL®, EPITOL®)
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- a medicine that contains metformin
- rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®)

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Patient Information for TIVICAY on the next pages and discuss it with your healthcare provider.

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DGV263R0 June 2014



PATIENT INFORMATION

TIVICAY® (TIV-eh-kay) (dolutegravir) Tablets

Read this Patient Information before you start taking TIVICAY and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is TIVICAY?

TIVICAY is a prescription HIV medicine that is used with other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) infections in adults and children 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 88 pounds. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if TIVICAY is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age or who weigh less than 88 pounds.

When used with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 infection, TIVICAY may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load.”
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells in your blood, which help fight off other infections.
- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 and increase the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood which may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TIVICAY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection to others.

- Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not take TIVICAY?

Do not take TIVICAY if you take dofetilide. Taking TIVICAY and dofetilide can cause side effects that may be life-threatening.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TIVICAY?

Before you take TIVICAY, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to TIVICAY
- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TIVICAY will harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking TIVICAY.

Pregnancy Registry. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of the registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take TIVICAY.**

- You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
- It is not known if TIVICAY passes into your breast milk.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements. TIVICAY and other medicines may affect each other causing side effects. TIVICAY may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how TIVICAY works.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- other HIV-1 medicines including: efavirenz (SUSTIVA®), etravirine (INTELENCE®), fosamprenavir (LEXIVA®)/ritonavir (NORVIR®), nevirapine (VIRAMUNE®), or tipranavir (APTIVUS®)/ritonavir (NORVIR).
- antacids or laxatives that contain aluminum, magnesium, sucralfate (CARAFATE®), or buffered medicines. TIVICAY should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- iron or calcium supplements. Supplements including multivitamins containing calcium or iron may be taken at the same time with TIVICAY if taken with food. Otherwise, TIVICAY should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- anti-seizure medicines:
 - oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®)
 - phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN®-125, PHENYTEK®)
 - phenobarbital (LUMINAL®)
 - carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL®-XR, TERIL®, EPITOL®)
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- a medicine that contains metformin
- rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®)

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Keep a list of the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take TIVICAY?

- Take TIVICAY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TIVICAY without talking with your healthcare provider.
- Stay under the care of a healthcare provider while taking TIVICAY.
- You can take TIVICAY with or without food.
- If you miss a dose of TIVICAY, take it as soon as you remember. If it is within 4 hours of your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. If you are not sure about your dosing, call your healthcare provider.
- If you take too much TIVICAY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- Do not run out of TIVICAY. The virus in your blood may become resistant to other HIV-1 medicines if TIVICAY is stopped for even a short time. When your supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy.

What are the possible side effects of TIVICAY?

TIVICAY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with TIVICAY. **Stop taking TIVICAY and get medical help right away if you:**
 - **develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms**
 - fever
 - generally ill feeling
 - extreme tiredness
 - muscle or joint aches
 - blisters or sores in mouth
 - blisters or peeling of the skin
 - redness or swelling of the eyes
 - swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue
 - problems breathing
 - **develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
 - yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes
 - dark or tea-colored urine
 - pale-colored stools or bowel movements
 - nausea or vomiting
 - loss of appetite
 - pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side below the ribs
- **Changes in liver tests.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TIVICAY. Your healthcare provider may do

(continued)

PATIENT INFORMATION for TIVICAY® (dolutegravir) Tablets (cont'd)

tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TIVICAY.

- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these problems are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of TIVICAY include:

- trouble sleeping • headache

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of TIVICAY. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store TIVICAY?

- Store TIVICAY at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Keep TIVICAY and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about TIVICAY

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use TIVICAY for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TIVICAY to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about TIVICAY that is written for health professionals.

For more information call 1-877-844-8872 or go to www.TIVICAY.com.

What are the ingredients in TIVICAY?

Active ingredient: dolutegravir sodium

Inactive ingredients: d-mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone K29/32, sodium starch glycolate, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The tablet film-coating contains the inactive ingredients iron oxide yellow, macrogol/PEG, polyvinyl alcohol-part hydrolyzed, talc, and titanium dioxide.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Manufactured for:

by:



ViiV Healthcare
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
May 2014
TVC:2PIL



GlaxoSmithKline

GlaxoSmithKline
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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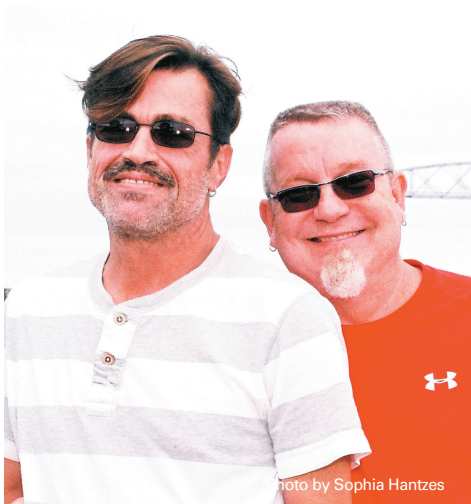
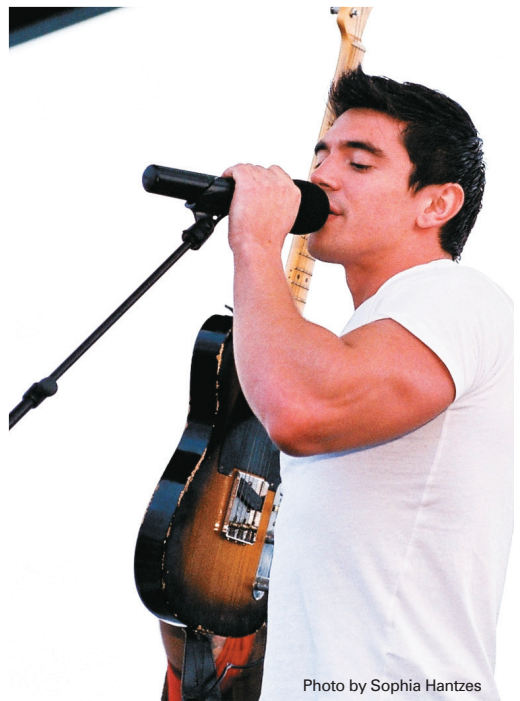




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"BEAR" WITH ME (WHILE I TELL YOU ABOUT)... | BY BARRY LEAVITT

GLBT NIGHT AT MINNESOTA UNITED FC

October 4 • 7pm

NSC Stadium • 1700 105th Ave. NE, Blaine

On the heels of this year's World Cup, which brought soccer to a new level of fandom in the United States, Minnesota United FC is hosts its first GLBT Night. For soccer novices, Minnesota United FC is part of the North American Soccer League (NASL), and currently fighting for the top spot in the league. As MN United FC prepares to host its first GLBT Night, Nick Rogers, President of Minnesota United FC, was kind enough to answer a few questions.



MN United FC signed the Athlete Ally Pledge. By signing the pledge, what is the team and its players promising?

By signing the pledge (and accepting a position as a member of the Athlete Ally Advisory Board) I have taken a public stance against homophobia and transphobia in sports. Essentially, my message to our entire club is: the only thing that matters is what happens on the field of play. There is also a very selfish aspect to me being an Athlete Ally: I want to build the best team that we can possibly put on the field and, to do that, I need to make sure that all elite soccer players feel comfortable being a part of this club. When Robbie Rogers came out to the world and then quit Leeds United, I remember thinking, "That cannot happen to us." I cannot accept the idea that we as a club could lose a crucial performer simply because of who he is.

To be effective, it is crucial that this kind of message come from leadership, so it's very gratifying to me that, in addition to myself, our coaching staff, team captain and a number of other players have made the pledge. I'm also pleased that we're able to set a positive example for our community and, hopefully, pass on these values to our younger fans.

For fans who are planning to attend the October 4 game, but who've never attended a MN United game before, what type of atmosphere should they expect?

Minnesota United games are unlike any other sporting experience. With world-class soccer on the field, executed by top-level players from all over the world, including players from Brazil, Italy, Jamaica, El Salvador and the United States, fans can be assured that they are witnessing top-level professional soccer.

The experience off the field and in the stands is what truly makes our games so absorbing. From our incredibly bright and creative supporters group: The Dark Clouds, and their unique chants, drum beats, trumpet playing and flag waving, to the assortment of delicious food truck options and affordable craft beer selections, to the family fun zone with soccer inflatables and fun for the kids, to free parking, tailgating and an overall inclusive atmosphere, Minnesota United game days are a truly unique and exciting experience.

We are very proud with the show our front office puts together in the stadium and the performance the team puts on the field every Saturday.

Are there any special activities planned for the October 4 event?

Chris Kluwe, former NFL punter and member of Athlete Ally will be delivering the ceremonial ball and will partaking in a fun halftime contest. Whether you're a soccer fanatic or just like watching hot men in shorts run up and down a field, NSC Stadium is the place to be for a night of soccer, fun and community on October 4. There are still tickets available, so visit www.mnunitedfc.com/tickets or call 763-4-SOCCER, and use code LAV for \$5 off per ticket.

TCGMC AT THE 2 ANNUAL CHORALE SHOWCASE

October 5 • 4pm

St. Andrews Lutheran Church • 900 Stillwater Rd. Mahtomedi

Did you miss TCGMC's premiere performances of *I Am Harvey Milk* this spring? Here's a chance to see them perform excerpts of the work at the 2nd annual Choral Showcase. Guest performers Quinn Morrissey and Elisabeth Comeaux, who performed the roles of Young Harvey and Soprano with them last March, will join them. The Choral Showcase is a great opportunity to see nine choruses and vocal ensembles perform! In addition to our performance, you will also get to see and hear Cantus, The Singers, the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, the Minnesota Chorale, Kantorei, Magnum Chorum and One Voice Mixed Chorus. Admission is free although there will be a free will offering. For more information, visit www.mnchorale.org or call 612-333-4866.

BEARRACUDA

October 17 • 10pm

The Saloon • 830 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis



Bears and Cubs and Otters...Oh Grrrrrr! Bearracuda, the fur-filled dance party, returns to Minneapolis at its new location, The Saloon. Matt Bearracuda, the founder of Bearracuda, said he started the event in response to the lack of choices in the Bear scene. What started in 2006 as a monthly San Francisco party, has become the largest attended Bear dance party and most prolific gay dance event in the country. For those of you who've never attended Bearracuda, Matt said you can expect awesome music, custom visuals, sexy go-go boys, and of course, lots of furry guys. As for the host venue, Matt is excited to have the event at The Saloon, which he said is much bigger and more diverse than the venues Bearracuda parties are usually held. Of course, the biggest party of any dance party is the music, and for Minneapolis Bearracuda, they're welcoming world-renowned Mixmaster and Producer, DJ Paul Goodyear from Sydney, Australia. It all adds up to a FURtastic evening with 100's of friendly, furry guys. There is a \$10 cover after 10pm. For more information, search "Bearracuda Minneapolis" on Facebook. ■

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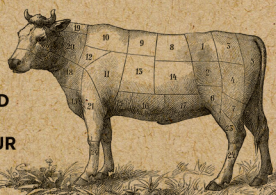
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THE NICOLLET DINER...AND A MUFFIN TOP?

Sam Turner and his partner Dion Coker burst onto the dining scene last spring with Muffin Top Café, an establishment that identifies as a GLBTQ coffee house. Some have even joked that it's a "straight friendly" coffee house. But the café wasn't in their original plans. Rather, it sort of fell into their laps. When the two men decided to open a food or coffee business, they had not committed to a type. The location they originally looked at would have been ideal to redevelop as one-third coffee shop and two-thirds restaurant, but they were unable to agree on terms with the landlord.

"When we found our current location, we felt it was best suited for a diner so began developing it as The Nicollet Diner," Sam says. The Nicollet Diner, which the two recently opened this fall, operated as

their initial goal, with the coffee shop next door running under different ownership until earlier this year when the opportunity for the two men to gain control came about.

Situated just around the corner from the 19 Bar, a Minneapolis GLBT nightlife icon, the duo saw it as a perfect opportunity. "We are both big coffee fanatics and miss the days of Vera's Café, Café Wyrld, and Café Zev," Sam explains. "We felt like Minneapolis, and in particular the Loring Park area, would be ideal for an LGBTQ-centric coffee house, so we could not let the opportunity pass us by. We quickly agreed to take it on and rebranded it as Muffin Top Café."

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Khyber Pass Café	Spill the Wine
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Original art (Harvey Milk depicted in gunpowder here) is displayed throughout.

Lightning (a super-caffinated white mocha), it's no wonder that people have been flocking to the café, making Sam's dreams of owning a restaurant a reality. Both Dion and Sam grew up working in restaurants, and (by a matter of fate) ended up working at the same technology company as adults. Dion, with a career in finance and accounting, and Sam, working in operations, harmoniously combine their talents. While maintaining their positions in their corporate jobs, their skills carry over into their own ventures, helping to separate each other's roles and responsibilities. And with an employer who is supportive, offering them the flexibility to pursue their restaurant dreams, the two have it made.

"We love our current jobs and employer but wanted something more," Sam says. "We wanted to build something together that we could call our own and fit in with our experience and background. With the support of our family, friends, the neighborhood, and the LGBTQ community, we were able to make what was once only a dream into a reality."

With the added surprise of the Muffin Top property, Sam and Dion worked quickly to turnover the property and open it as the coffee shop the



neighborhood has come to love. "While we have worked to make it a community coffee house for all," Sam says, "we make ourselves available for LGBTQ groups that need a meeting space and strive to be a safe, comfortable, accepting space where all—especially those who identify as LGBTQ—can feel welcome and find a sense of community. We also try to find programming and events that appeal to the LGBTQ community." The programming he speaks of certainly runs the gamut in terms of variety. Just this past month, Muffin Top hosted a screening of the film *Fagbug Nation*, which takes viewers behind the wheel of what it's like to drive

the once vandalized, now famous "Fagbug" car.

On the other hand, the newest addition to their plate, The Nicollet Diner, won't necessarily have programming or entertainment events like you will find at Muffin Top Café; although there is space available for private events or large parties and the diner is certainly open to hosting many groups or organizations, GLBTQ or otherwise.

When planning for the concept of the restaurant, Sam and Dion instantly felt breakfast, burgers, fries, and shakes was the ideal concept



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and fit for the space and area, and felt like it was within their abilities. This is an entirely different concept than the adjacent Muffin Top. While The Nicollet Diner is a neighborhood eatery with the goal of being approachable by all and a neighborhood staple with a full made-to-order menu, Muffin Top Café is really more of a community coffee house that caters to the GLBTQ clientele and their allies, offering a limited snacks and tapas menu, and muffin tops (of course).

Bringing on Chef Anthony "Gonzo" Ledo to head up the diner's kitchen, the pair couldn't be any more excited about the new menu. Making everything from scratch when it is realistic to do so, the items offered at The Nicollet Diner won't be found anywhere else. Sam says, "My favorite so far is the Hot Meatloaf sandwich or the Corned Beef Hash while Dion's is the Dion Omelete (of course) or the open-faced Hot Turkey. Dion is still undecided on his favorite malt, but I live for the hot fudge Oreo with a shot of vanilla!" The crowd favorite so far seems to be the burgers: fresh, never frozen, hand pattied burgers grilled to perfection on a flat top.

Sam and Dion thank the community for their continued success in their personal venture. As a small "Pop & Pop" shop, they credit the growing support from the neighborhood and community at large as their biggest support system. "Identifying as gay ourselves has had a slightly bigger effect on the diner than we anticipated," Sam says. "As progressive as Minneapolis is, we figured we would be welcomed to the neighborhood by its residents and absolutely have been. We did not really think that how we identify ourselves personally would play into our business but the outpouring of support from the community has shown they support us and want to see us succeed.

"What we have found even in our first week is that a lot of our clientele is part of the LGBTQ community and come out in support of us as well as in support of it as an LGBTQ-owned business. We have a fantastically tight-knit and supportive LGBTQ community in Minneapolis and their support thus far has been nothing short of absolutely remarkable." ■

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Prairie School's biggest cache of houses is in Mason City, Iowa. Photo by Carla Waldemar

Iowa (North Central)

RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY

I'm inside the brain of Frank Lloyd Wright. Well, that's what it feels like: the shiver of awe and delight aroused by sleeping in the only remaining hotel designed by America's most famous architect, dining in its restaurant, relaxing in the bar.

And where, exactly, is this gem of Prairie School design? Smack in the middle of the prairie. In Mason City, Iowa, to be exact: 135 miles dead south of the Twin Cities. A town boasting the largest collection of Prairie School architecture in the whole wide world designed by Wright and his disciples—23 notable buildings—which keeps my camera busy on a self-guided walking tour. I bump into devotees from Holland and Japan on the same mission, as if tracing the path of a holy saint.

The obvious question is, why here, amid the corn and soybeans? Turns out, one of the town's patriarchs enrolled his daughters in the Spring Green, Wisconsin school run by Frank's aunts and home to the architect's studio. While visiting, the gent became so enthralled by Wright's design statements that he lobbied for the renowned architect to design the bank and hotel that the town was planning. The Park Inn Hotel debuted in 1910. And while in Mason City, Wright was asked to design a house for the Stockman family—the only FLW dwelling in Iowa today open to tour.

But the Prairie style was embraced with far more fervor than Wright himself, thanks to stories of his extracurricular romances. He became persona non grata, so his associates and followers took on the call for homes honoring the Prairie precepts: a flat, horizontal roof line; fireplace

in the middle of the dwelling with a floor plan rotating around it; symmetrical, geometrical details that connect to nature, especially in the use of earth tones. Visitors can tally these as they tour the Stockman House (the shag carpet and lowered ceilings of later "improvements" removed) and adjoining Architectural Interpretive Center, showcasing photos and models of the city's treasured homes (grand gift shop, too).

The hotel fell on hard times and was spliced into offices and such, until a visionary group founded a nonprofit to restore and re-open it. "Spend money on WHAT?" was the typical response of aghast locals until it re-opened in its original glory in 2011, authentic down to the art glass ceiling in the parlor and plaster walls embedded with Wright's original fan-shaped motifs (free tours offered).

Not only was an iconic building saved, so was the town. The hotel anchored what even those skeptics now hail as the River City Renaissance, a nucleus for attracting businesses and projects like the Sculpture Walk, an annually changing outdoor exhibit of two dozen statues (walking maps available) and a gussied-up Central Park facing the hotel, whose Civil War hero on a pedestal oversees picnic tables and barbecue grills amid the swaying maples.

The renaissance lured young Catherine Field from Mankato to open Coffee Cat, where she serves homemade scones and lattes amid local art and live music in tandem with the bookstore next door. "I decided to take a chance," she says, "and in the eight years I've been here, I've seen Mason City explode with new energy."



(From left) Mecca of Prairie Architecture; Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* statue outside the museum in his honor; Meredith Willson's bridge. Photos by Carla Waldemar

Bartender Zach Avila, of the Historic Park Inn, agrees as he stirs his signature 43N 43W cocktail, born of Templeton rye ("Iowa's most renowned liquor," favored by Al Capone) and bitters that he creates by foraging the Iowa plains. Zach tipped us off to the Suzie Q Diner a block away, whose owner entertains guests with magic tricks while awaiting their eggs over easy.

The Northern Steakhouse, launched in 1920, has seen its customer count catapult as well, says Ann, a family member of the founding Greek immigrant clan, who now find customers settling in for a three-hour wait for a table on weekends. The town has changed, she's happy to report, but not the menu: Iowa beef served with a side of parmesan-dusted spaghetti and the house salad—embellished, as it was in 1920—with a quartered egg and pickle ("That will never change," she declares). Dave Escher, current owner of Birdsall's, still scoops homemade ice cream ("get your licks here") the way its founders did. He also notes an uptick of lickers since the Renaissance, especially during peach season, when his best-seller sells out fast.

The MacNider Art Museum—a thatched English Tudor home of the 1920s that would make Frank shudder ("Leave European style for Europeans; create something American for Americans!")—enchants visitors with its proud collection of all-American art, whose highlight is a cache of 20th century prints by boldface names like Chuck Close, Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, and glassblower Dale Chihuly. (Then there's also the collection, if you will, mentioned by Bartender Zach, of the town's iconoclast, Max Weaver, the self-appointed "Mayor of Midnight," who skulks around at that hour collecting the detritus of Mason City—think old gas station signs, road repair cones, and broken bicycles to sculpt his "found art" into a warren of collages on a vacant lot.)

Mason City's second favorite son bore little love for the first man to gain fame. Composer Meredith Willson is celebrated in Music Man Square in a museum erected to celebrate his famous all-about-Iowa (Mason City = River City) musical, *The Music Man*. Wander through a collection of band instruments, a silent-movie theater playing songs he wrote for Charlie Chaplin, the flute he tootled while in Toscanini's orchestra, and a reproduction of the 1962 movie set, including the Pleez-All Billiard Parlor ("Trouble that starts with T, and that rhymes with P, and that stands for pool"). His Victorian boyhood home next door ("just what Wright was trying to get away from," says our tour guide) discloses that his sister, Dixie, joined the circus. *Music Man*'s Professor Harold Hill is said by some to represent bad boy Frank Lloyd Wright, whose morals didn't suit the folks of River City. In some twist of irony, or fair play, the river-spanning bridge leading to that cache of Prairie homes is named for Willson. By the way, the Guthrie Theater will stage *The Music Man* next June.

To plan your trip, visit www.visitmasoncityiowa.com. ■

END NOTES

You Gotta Know the Territory!

Near Mason City lie several small towns worth a meander.

Charles City, to the Southeast, displays the girlhood home of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt, an 1865 "diamond on the prairie" that discloses the singular story of this barrier-breaking woman. Who knew? Carrie, at 13, was instructed by her dad that "Voting is too important to leave to women." She begged to differ and became a driving force in passing the 19th Amendment in 1920 giving women the right to vote. Catt was second in command to Susan B. Anthony and became her hand-picked successor. Earlier, she graduated first in her Iowa State college class (the only woman); became a newspaper reporter (only, again), and voted Superintendent of Schools in Mason City (only, again, and voted for by men whose wives had not yet achieved the ballot). She negotiated a pre-nup that assured she could "devote two months in spring and fall to suffrage work." She founded the League of Women Voters and graced the cover of *Time* Magazine.

Next, peek in at the All Iowa Lawn Tennis Club—a grass playing court painstaking constructed by devotee (nut?) and farmer Mark Kuhn to replicate exactly the centre court of Wimbledon—the Field of Dreams of tennis. Stop by for a game; it's free.

So is the Mooney Art Collection, housed in the town library, a gift from native son Arthur Mooney, and another who-knew discovery. He collected prints of the world's most revered artists—79 in all, including six Rembrandts, as well as Durer, Goya, Monet, Matisse, Chagall, Dali and another Iowa native, Grant Wood. It's like a 101 course in Art Greats.

Whitewater at Riverfront Park is Iowa's first whitewater course—also free—open for kayaks, tubes, and boaters: a four-mile course at the Class 2-3 level, and a safe DIY experience. Bonus: a sculpture-punctuated shoreline path with exercise stations erected by the town's Girl Scouts and a stone-paved amphitheatre for entertainers.

Surely you're starving by now? 3C Bistro to the rescue, serving faves like corn-crab chowder; pasta plumped with asparagus, artichokes, and sundried tomatoes; and a grand Philly sandwich. Or grab a cup of java at Aromas, founded by a disenchanted Boeing engineer who left Seattle in search of small-town life. Since founding the coffeehouse nine years ago, he's roasted and sold 3,000 pounds a week (the population of Charles City is 4,000—clearly a caffeinated town). www.charlescitychamber.com

Clear Lake, to the west, lives up to its name, as you can see riding the paddlewheeler Lady of the Lake as it traces the shoreline of what its owner, tongue securely in cheek, calls "the Hamptons of Mason City." The boat also boasts a bandstand and dance floor while Clear Lake also has bike paths along its 15-mile circumference and swimming beaches, too.

But I guess you'd expect that in a town hosting the famous Surf Ballroom, where big bands have delighted dancers since the 1940s, known as "home of rock 'n' roll"—and more somberly, where Buddy Holly played "the day the music died" when his plane crashed nearby in February of 1959. Tour the ballroom, take a dance lesson from expat Margaret Maserczyk of Liverpool, who instructed us in the British Stroll. She brings the active Buddy Holly fan club from her English city for the annual Winter Dance Party. Pay homage at the crash site, marked by a giant pair of Buddy's black-framed glasses, in the middle of a cornfield (directions given at the Surf), where mourning fans leave tokens, like a whirligig of revolving JELL-O molds. www.clearlakeiowa.com

Nearby, **Forest City**'s Pilot Knob State Park marks the second-highest point in all Iowa (you won't need an oxygen tank) in a leafy forest preserve. A bigger draw is the world headquarters of Winnebago, launched in 1958 to bring employment to the community and today the biggest, most renowned manufacturer of mobile homes. On a free tour (no reservations needed) you can watch the behemoths come together at the rate of 38 a day. If you can spare upwards of \$200,000, take home a souvenir. www.forestcityia.com

OUR SCENE

ARTS & CULTURE | ON THE RECORD | BY ED HUYCK



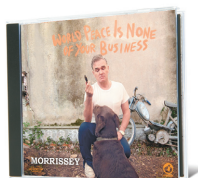
TRAMPLED BY TURTLES *Wild Animals*

Minnesota's favorite bluegrass act goes deeper into their songwriting on *Wild Animals*, giving us a terrific collection that showcases how far this band can go. The bluegrass and folk style are still at the heart of the music, but there is also more focus on song craft. Where past releases may have relied on speed, here the pace settles into something that fits in with plenty of other Current-supported bands, but with a tougher and firmer sense of how folk music works. That means the gentle elegy of "Are You Behind the Shining Star?" can coexist with the frantic hardcore-by-way-of-the-fiddle stomp (without percussion, mind you) of "Western World." It's an album that sounds perfect in the summertime, but I sense it will still be heavy rotation once the weather turns again.



SIA *1000 Forms of Fear*

Sia's songwriting has been all over the pop charts in recent years, as she has contributed songs to a host of artists, from Flo Rida to Beyoncé to Kyle Minogue. All of that pop heat has translated to solo success, as *1000 Forms of Fear* landed on the top of the charts. She certainly knows her way around the modern pop song, and adds plenty of character here to songs that could have sounded generic via the voice of a lesser artist. There is the pop bubble of "Chandelier," the No-Doubt-sounding-outtake of "Big Girls Cry," or the straight ahead rock of "Hostage." It's not an album that tries to reinvent the wheel, but it offers much stronger pop delights than most recent hits.



MORRISSEY *World Peace Is None of Your Business*

Between canceling concert tours, the Mozzer took the time to release a new album, his first in several years. The caustic attitude that has kept him in the scene for three decades is still evident, but the sharp songwriting sense is missing. The songs tend to plod along when they should rise high. His best songs (many co-written by Johnny Marr during the Smiths era) make you feel good even when the message is loaded with misanthropy and anger. There are touches of that here, like on the title track, fueled by the very punk attitude of, "When you vote, you support the system," but that fire is largely lacking elsewhere on this overlong, awkward, and muddy collection.



SAM SMITH *In the Lonely Hour*

The achingly young and recently out Brit has torched the charts in the last year, first singing on a hit for Disclosure and then via his own string of hits. His debut album is very much highlighted by those tunes. The rest of it? Not nearly as engaging. The big tunes, like "Stay With Me," showcase much potential. Smith's rich voice reaches easily to a falsetto, giving him a slightly otherworldly quality that is rare on modern radio. He works mainly with mid-tempo and slower tunes here, but they don't burn with nearly enough passion to keep our interest (Smith may want to spend some more time listening to the blues and classic soul). There's a ton of talent and flashes of brilliance, but the grade is still incomplete. ■



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Lilting. Photo by Urszula Pontikos

DIRTY DANCING

Oct. 7 - 19

Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Av., Mpls.

(800) 982-2787

www.hennepintheatretrustrust.org

The 1980s dance film sensation has been adapted into a popular stage hit. The national tour's Dance Captain Nicole Spencer relates, "The detailed partnering work is one of the biggest challenges. Dancers are constantly attached to another person, and both dancers need absolute trust in each other to be able to accomplish the daring lifts, the crazy high-energy jive steps, and the endless backbends. As they say, you need two to tango, and that could not be truer in this show. Fans of the movie will be pleased to experience the same down and dirty staff quarter dancing and high flying Johnny and Penny lifts live on stage. We have expanded on the dancing from the movie and incorporated more ballroom numbers, intensified the lifts, and have brought more emotion to each number."

LILTING

Opens Oct. 19

Edina Cinema, 3911 W. 50th St., Edina

(952) 920-8796

www.landmarktheatres.com

This brilliantly original debut feature from London's Cambodian-born Hong Khaou has a simultaneously endearing and maddening Ben Whishaw as Richard, a gay man of Anglo heritage, unable to release his pent-up anger toward the mother of his deceased male partner of four years, Kai (Andrew Leung). The rub is that Kai never came out to his aging mother, Junn (Cheing Pei-pei) a

Chinese widow who speaks no English living in a local nursing home. The conflict is mediated through Vann (Naomi Christie) an interpreter Richard hires. She is caught between Junn's heterosexist obstinance and Richard's politically correct gay self-righteousness.

In a time when GLBT people are

legitimately enjoying success in the quest for our rights, Khaou gives us a much needed view of ourselves as being less than stellar in how some of us sometimes behave mean-spiritedly in pursuit of being right. Pei-pei's poignant performance makes us aware that as unconscious and behind the times and cultural curve as Junn is, that nonetheless, Kai would probably not have appreciated how his living partner comes to treat his mother. She doesn't deserve what he passive-aggressively dishes out to her. That may keep some GLBT people away from *Lilting*, but that's exactly why you shouldn't even *think* of missing this film. Wouldn't you rather an empathic soul like Khaou frame our emotional issues, than the far right?



The Man in Her Dreams.
Image by Ruth Virkus

THE MAN IN HER DREAMS

Through Oct. 19

Nimbus Theatre

1517 Central Av. NE, Mpls.

(612) 816-8479

www.freshwatertheatre.com

Katherine Glover is known for her contributions to GLBT and other media, as well as for her acclaimed theater writing. The solo show she presented at the Minnesota Fringe Festival a few years ago has been remounted but re-conceptualized. Glover says, "About 12 years ago, while doing a story on the Innocence Project of Minnesota, I met a woman who had not only survived a brutal attack but years later also had to grapple with the fact that she had mistakenly sent the wrong man to prison. The story haunted me. Wrongful conviction is such an intense and terrifying form of injustice, and I was also fascinated by all the ways memory can play tricks on us. I started doing research to come up with a fictional but plausible story for my one-woman show, *Dead Wrong*, which I later expanded into *The Man in Her Dreams*."

1984

Oct. 17 - 26

Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Av. S., Mpls.

(612) 234-7135

www.theatreporata.org

George Orwell's novel looms as the ultimate cautionary tale against government authoritarianism. He is dear to the hearts of sexual minorities because of his understanding of how erotophobia and war can be used for mass thought control. Grant Henderson plays protagonist Winston Smith, a man in a society that unconsciously swims in a sea of fear-inducing propaganda.

Theatre Pro Rata director Carin Bratlie says, "*1984* is really just



1984. Photo by Charles Gorrill



33 Variations. Photo by Petronella J Ytsma

the classic story of Jack the Giant Killer, but modernized. It's one man's struggle against a totalitarian regime that is hell bent on submission. It's interesting that though the Party doesn't want mindless automatons—it wants its members to think and judge—the twist is that it wants Members to only think and judge what is in line with the Party's decrees as the norm. Michael Gene Sullivan's new stage adaptation keeps all the suspense of the book but highlights it in a truly theatrical way. It takes place entirely inside the interrogation room."

Dramaturg Christine "Kit" Gordon shares, "Given Edward Snowden's revelations about the NSA, the news that Facebook is running psychological experiments on its users, and ongoing revelations about those in power lying to citizens—most recently highlighted in coverage of the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin resolution 50 years ago in August—we seem to be under more surveillance than ever."

Bratlie adds, "Internet data stealing and storing, drones, militarization of our police force, metrics to track and predict our behaviors, and the overall giant experiment of human behavior that is the internet: it all seems to bring *1984* into stunningly applicable focus."

33 VARIATIONS

Park Square Theatre,

20 W 7th Place, St. Paul

(651) 291-7005

www.parksquaretheatre.org

Moises Kaufman is a champion of gay drama. *The Laramie Project* and *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* ingeniously took printed accounts and citizen observations about the death of Matthew Shepard and the downfall of the great gay playwright and turned them into compelling dramas. Kaufman's adaptation of Tennessee Williams's shunned screenplay of his (Williams's) short story, *One Arm*, is a stunning evocation of a straight veteran who sells his body to gay and bisexual men.

Kaufman's Tony-nominated *33 Variations* now receives its area premiere at Park Square. Director James Rocco shares, "Kaufman is a modern poet. He captures the sound of contemporary people and manages to turn their words into revelations about the times we live in. He has boldly dealt with issues that are vitally affecting us all. Although *33 Variations* is not a 'gay' play, its issues explode with revelations about people—all people. More and more I am envisioning a world where we realize there is diversity and unity. In spite of our differences we are all people living together on this planet. In *33 Variations* he addresses the search for making sense of our human existence and the varying ways a person may choose to lead their life." ■

McCraney's "Marcus" Has Topnotch Talent Telling Its Gay Coming-of-Age Story

Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Brother/Sister* Trilogy has become one of the major dramatic works of the current era. Pillsbury House and the Mount Curve Company co-produced the first two plays at the Guthrie's Dowling Studio. Now they are presenting the final and best of the three in the same venue by the same director, OBIE-winner Marion McClinton. You do not have to have seen the previous two to fully comprehend and appreciate this last and best play, *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*, the story of a teenager coming to grips with his homosexual side.

Title role actor Nathan Barlow relates, "Because of the way this play is written, it seems to me that McCraney wishes to do more than just recall his journey of 'coming out.' This play is arranged in a way that not only explores that, but quite bluntly calls into question the powers within society that may have kept him from feeling comfortable about his own sexual desires. Less than half-way through the play, Marcus speaks to the audience and gives the impression that he is entirely aware of his own sexuality. What he doesn't know is 'how to play it,' because he hasn't been around enough people in his life 'like him.' Throughout the play,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 ➔

Nathan Barlow as Marcus. Photo by Michal Daniel

From Zambia to Minneapolis, Kasono Mwanza Taps Into the Joyful Side of Life



Kasono Mwanza, in a pickle car, in Richard Scarry's *Busytown the Musical*. Photo by Dan Norman

Kasono Mwanza has come a long way. He was born in Africa and lived there until age 11. In the 15 years since, he has become an American citizen, which he feels great pride for, and a working actor in the Twin Cities. Openly gay and eloquent in expression, Mwanza shared some thoughts recently about his childhood experience, his love for performance, and his current roles at the celebrated Children's Theatre of Minneapolis where he appears in Kevin Kling's animal-driven adaptation of *Busytown the Musical* by beloved children's writer, Richard Scarry.

JT: You came to the US when you were 11. But before that, in Zambia, did you have an awareness of being gay?

KM: Absolutely. Like any other kid, with age comes a fascination with things, and the pockets of time where the subconscious becomes conscious. I knew what fascinated me, and it wasn't the same thing that fascinated everyone else. It certainly wasn't a decision, and the only way I can explain that awareness is by posing this question: When did you fully understand you liked girls/boys? It's just something that happens, you

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36 ➔

the audience is witnessing Marcus come to terms with his own agency as an individual that has always existed, but which society has hidden from him. Therefore, the play becomes more about Marcus coming into his own as an adult in general, rather than just coming to terms with his sexuality.”

McClinton points out that homophobia is an issue with much of the black community, especially in rural areas such as McCraney’s isolat-



Photo by Michal Daniel

ed Louisiana setting. He says that at one time, his own attitudes about gayness were not so positive, but that when he entered the theater world he came to value gay peoples’ contributions. He has also consciously raised his son without standard homophobic indoctrination. He calls GLBT rights the Civil Rights Movement of the 21st Century and stresses the importance of “accepting and acknowledging each other’s humanity. Marcus is a 16-year-old who is fighting his community. He says I accept me and I’m ready to face the storm.”

Though Marcus’s mother, Oba, seems to be a headwind in that storm, Jamila Anderson, who plays that role makes a crucial point. She observes that “Oba’s concern for Marcus is ultimately for his well-being, his safety. As his only parent, she holds tight to him. She is doing everything she can as a mother to try and prepare him for the world. She is already afraid for him because he’s a black boy in the South. She acknowledges that he is ‘soft’ but I don’t think that her subtle denial of his homosexuality is because she’s homophobic. I believe it is because she doesn’t want his life to be even harder as a man, as a black man, than it’s already going to be.”

Barlow finds that being a straight actor playing Marcus is illuminating. He says, “As a heterosexual doing this play, I have realized how oppressive labels can be. Hetero-normativity is a very real thing, and I am extremely happy to be doing work that takes a clear stand against it. I will say that the only real difference between Marcus and me is that I find myself attracted to women. That does not mean that we behave differently, or in a way, are ‘different’ from each other at our cores. We both desire intimacy, we both desire to be cared for, and we both want to exist in society as our authentic selves without constantly being told we are ‘abnormal.’” ■

MARCUS; OR THE SECRET OF SWEET

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certainly don’t get to pick. In Zambia I had a neighbor who was also of my age, and everyone wanted us to be a couple—boyfriend and girlfriend. I never thought of this neighbor in the way that my male friends did, so that certainly affirmed a few things for me at a young age.

JT: What made you choose to be an actor and how did you start out?

KM: My father used to be in a band. He played guitar and sang. I also remember that his band had dancers who danced in front of them while they were playing. Maybe it was his energy that I felt. It was a joyous energy. Just by watching him, I knew I wanted to perform. I could never figure out how or when to start. It certainly felt like it was in our blood. Like many in the world, I was also obsessed with Michael Jackson. While all the kids played outside, I watched him in concert via VCR tapes. I feel like, between my father and Michael Jackson’s concerts, I knew that entertainment was a field I wanted to enter.



Photo by Dan Norman

When I attended Marcy Open School here in Minneapolis, my social studies teacher caught me singing. He happened to be the director of musicals at the school, so he nudged me to audition for *West Side Story*. After a string of “no thank you” replies to my teacher, I finally gathered my self-conscious self and decided to audition. I’ve been doing theater ever since.

JT: At CTC you play numerous roles in *Busytown*. Tell me about your process.

KM: There’s something magical about how kids can pretend to be something at one point, and then just as quickly they can change character and/or perspective. They have no reservations, the fear of making mistakes doesn’t exist, and flair just comes with energy. It’s natural, innocent most times, and genuine. If layers of character exist, it’s in the simplest form. As far as my process goes, I feel this is what I pull from. Understanding each character is a roller coaster of its own, and in *Busytown* they happen to be very busy “human animals.” ■

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Adrian Peterson Makes Me a Lesbian Stereotype

I apologize if I sound like a man-hating, angsty lesbian with penis envy. I'm trying to pay attention to Monday Night Football to see if Andrew Luck will play well enough to give me a win over my brother in our fantasy football matchup this week, and I'm distracted. In fact, it seems quite a few teams this week have players that have become "distractions" and none of them are Michael Sam. Don't even get me started.

Tonight's interruptions? My iPhone notifications.

"Report: Peterson investigated over injuries to another 4-year-old son"

"NFL: Adrian Peterson Was Investigated for Abuse of Another of His Sons in June: No Charges Filed"

By now, the fact the Vikings star running back has been indicted on charges of injury to his child is old news, but here's a brief recap for those of you that have been taking one last off-the-grid trip to the Boundary Waters to end the summer. Peterson was indicted in Montgomery County, TX for hitting his 4-year-old son with a "switch," a tree branch with the leaves removed, while the child was visiting, so much that when the child was returned to his mother in Minnesota a week later, the wounds were still bleeding. The wounds allegedly included bruises and cuts to the 4-year-old's back, butt, legs, and *scrotum*. Peterson was benched by the Vikings for their game versus New England, turned

himself in to Texas authorities, and admitted he "whooped" the boy for pushing another child off a video game.

As of press time, and while charges are pending, the Vikings first chose to reactivate Peterson for Week 3, because, well, he's Adrian Peterson and they gave him a timeout. *Which is what he should have given his kid*. And now, these iPhone notifications are alerting me to the possibility of a similar situation with another of his sons. Public outcry seemed to change the direction taken by the Vikings and he is now deactivated indefinitely.

A few weeks ago, Michael Sam not making a team annoyed me. Last week, the Ray Rice situation infuriated me. This week I'm just plain disgusted. Maybe it's because the thought of anyone repeatedly hitting my toddler-age nieces until they bleed makes my hair stand on end. An obvious reaction, right? No one wants their children being injured.

Well, I don't have any children. And I can't help the fact that my wife and I being so far unsuccessful in our attempts to conceive has left me with a bitter taste in my mouth against those who take their privilege of raising children for granted. Of course, for us, getting pregnant requires more than a bottle of wine and a tumble in the hay. Unless if, in said hay bale, there's a sperm donor, various medical supplies, and a whole lotta cash. Point is, my wife and I have to be

damn sure we're ready for a child, and we aren't just going to "find out" we have one already when one passes away from child abuse by the mother's new boyfriend.

Unbelievable.

I don't know how many kids Adrian Peterson has. I wonder if he knows. He's consistently evaded those questions from the media, and yeah, it really isn't any of our business. Do you think he considers himself "lucky" to have them? Do you think he understands what a privilege it is to be a parent, and that being completely responsible for the shaping and upbringing of a child is one of life's greatest gifts and challenges? Do you think he knows that just because your parents did doesn't mean that you have to?

I know he doesn't know that there are countless other couples out there, like my wife and myself, who would give anything to be tasked with the responsibility he's abusing. To have the creation of life be so *easy*. And I'm sure he never thinks about the fact that my wife and I can't even legally adopt a child together in half of the United States, but he can legally beat the crap out of the result (really, a *gift*) of his one-night stands.

So yeah, maybe this week I'm a man-hating, angsty lesbian with penis envy. The news is filled with superstar athletes treating their loved ones worse than I'd ever consider treating my dog. Cut me some slack. ■

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2014

LAVENDER COMMUNITY AWARDS

Produced by Andy Lien Written by Shane Lueck

The Lavender Community Awards are our new version of the Lavender 100 and the Pride Awards. Recipients of this year's awards were nominated and voted for online throughout the month of August. Winners demonstrate clear dedication and leadership by being either out or an ally and working for the advancement of the community that is comprised of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied people. Without further ado, we are proud to present the recipients of the 2014 Lavender Community Awards.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 42 →

The Lavender Community Awards honor individuals, organizations, and corporations that make a difference in the rainbow community. Here are the winners from 2012 and 2013:

2012

Joe Larson, Tim Marburger, & Monica Travis with The Aliveness Project
Roxanne Anderson
Seimone Augustus & LaTaya Varner
Claire Avitabile
Mary Brewster
Katie Burgess
Jessalyn Frank
Jacob Frey
Derek Harley
Andrea Jenkins
JJ Kahle
Richard LaFortune
Minnesotans United for All Families
Kevin Kaoz Moore
Rick Perry & Eric Blad
Shannon Regan
Miss Richfield 1981
Jordan Roberge
Barbara Satin
Patrick Scully
Shades of Yellow (SOY)
Soul Friday
John Sullivan
John Townsend
Bradley Traynor, Jason Matheson

2013

Billie Sage Ashton
Lupé Castillo
Cathy Croghan
Sharon Day
Dean Schlaak & Tom DeGree
Phil Duran
Peter Golden
Lou Hoffman
Tish Jones
Mary Jo Kane
Rabbi Michael Latz
Gabe Lyrek
Jenn Melby
Doug Melroe
Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ
One Voice Mixed Chorus
Ken Powell
Prime Timers
Captain Tara Robertson
RT Rybak
Barry Segal
Marty Shimko
Betty Tisel
Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus



Joe Dowling

Photo by Joan Marcus

All I do is recognize that GLBT relationships are worthy of celebration and examination in dramatic works for the stage," says Joe Dowling, Director of the Guthrie Theatre, humbling himself. "Some of the greatest artists in the theater have been part of the GLBT community and their work has equal validity and power with every other writer." Though the current Guthrie season will be his last, Joe has left his mark. In his 20 years with the world-renowned theater, Joe has always been an ally in bringing GLBT themes to the Guthrie's productions, which he says is because he believes passionately in the equality of all and loathes discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, gender, or economic disadvantage. Joe cites his mother and wife as inspiration, calling them two strong and dynamic women who shared values of openness and inclusion. "I am also inspired on a daily basis by many colleagues and friends in the GLBT community who, overcoming prejudice and discrimination, have remained true to their beliefs and principles. They are all heroes." Although Joe is without a magic crystal ball, he hopes for a future world where his granddaughters and everyone else can express themselves honestly and with joy.

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
Minnesotans United for All Families



Timothy Ferraro & Mark Hauck

Photo by Michael Fell

“I think our biggest work for the GLBT community has been being out and present in our community at large, as business owners, parents, members of a faith community, and neighbors,” Mark says. He and Tim own Bluestem Construction, a 15-year-old design and build remodeling company. The couple (together for 25 years), have learned that belonging and dignity are fundamental values. Mark says, “Our advocacy and support of teens needing permanent families is rooted in that experience. In fact, the agency we are proud to support, Ampersand Families, lists as their mission ‘to recruit and support permanent families for older youth, and champion practices in adoption and permanency that restore belonging, dignity and hope.’ Pretty much everything we do is rooted in building opportunities for more of these three things, because, let’s face it, we would be in a much better place as a world with more of all three.” That thought process is evident, as their kids remain the center of their lives and their work continues to create a better tomorrow for their children. “A friend of ours once observed that it was a shock to discover that not everyone believed that it was their job as a human being to make the world a better place—we try to remember that is job number one,” Mark says. “It’s usually the little stuff that gets in the way and distracts from the big job of being a positive part of this moment on this planet. Sometimes a sink-full of dirty dishes and a pressing deadline can throw you off your game, but you just have to get back in.”

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
Political Campaigns, Nonprofit and Industry Boards, Community Organizations



Matthew Hawkins

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

"**Y**ou don't need to be a millionaire to make a monumental contribution" might be Matthew Hawkins' unofficial motto. A lot of people just write a check, or are volunteers in name only, but with Matthew, his presence is truly felt. Calling himself someone who may not have all the money to give, but can sure find the time to donate, the Complex Marketing Manager for W Minneapolis (The Foshay and Le Méridien Chambers) gives his all to support various organizations. "It's great to give back to a community that I am proud to be a part of," he says. "Growing up in a military household and the northern suburbs didn't allow me to give back as much as I wanted to. By doing the work that I have done, in my mind helps someone out there in some shape or form." Any great person isn't the same without an excellent support system and Matthew gives credit to his sister, Viola, and friend, Jean Cowles, who he says have always made him want to be a better person. Matthew doesn't show any signs of stopping. He says, "It will always be my goal to make sure that wherever I may find myself, I will always be trying to find time, to get others more involved, and make sure that the alignment and the support is felt by the community."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
Walker Art Center's Contemporaries, Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League Coach, Human Rights Campaign



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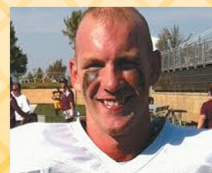
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Interesting Fact: I always wanted to be a gay man because I should've been born a queen.

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Julie Lyford

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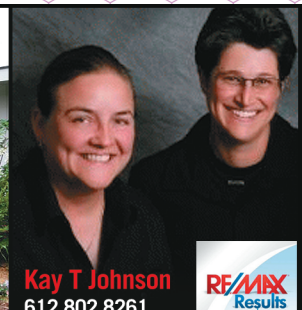
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2014

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Richard Herod III

Photo courtesy of Cuneo Advertising

“I would say that I lived my life with ‘eyes wide shut’ in terms of my work in the GLBT community until the marriage amendment came up,” says Richard Herod III, general manager at White Bear Mitsubishi. “Even when my personal rights were up for public debate I didn’t act right away.” It wasn’t until an HRC dinner during which a speaker talked about the GLBT community being the last group of citizens against which it’s legal to discriminate that Richard got involved, donating and getting a Vote No yard sign. Getting the sign turned into wrapping his car in those orange decals when his townhome community made him take down the yard sign; he then turned car wrapping into a fundraiser (ultimately raising over \$17,000 in less than four weeks). “Being ‘different’ is hard. But being bold is better,” Richard says. “While I’m sad it took the Vote No yard sign conflict in Woodbury to inspire my activism in the GLBT community, I’m grateful that it occurred. It was a necessary wake up call for me.” Richard is looking for his next chance to get involved, saying he’d love to work with youth, potentially in raising money for scholarships for GLBT youth. He says, “I’ve enjoyed much success in my life so far, but wouldn’t have achieved it without the people who believed in me when I was young and finding myself.”

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
 CODA International,
 Central High School
 Class of 1963
 Scholarship Fund,
 Second Harvest
 Heartland, Habitat
 for Humanity, Big
 Brothers Big
 Sisters, Human
 Rights Campaign,
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Patrick Kindler

Photo by Mike Hnida

As the executive director for One Heartland, Patrick Kindler has led the organization to a strong financial foothold as well as being the guiding force behind new programs such as Camp True Colors, a camp for GLBTQ youth. According to Patrick, his work is to “connect dots and manage resources,” but really he enjoys bringing people and organizations together for a common purpose and, when possible, using the One Heartland Center as a community resource. “I don’t want any youth to feel like they are alone,” he says. “We all need to feel like we belong, that we are part of a community, and that we have a family, whether or not that is what society believes is a ‘traditional’ family or not.” Patrick’s journey in the nonprofit world and in the GLBT community started when he was 16, working at Wilder Forest, a program of the Wilder Foundation. Of his time there, Patrick says, “I worked with some of the most amazing people for over 12 years. It was, and still is, probably the most diverse community of which I have been a part.” It was there that he learned the power of different people, from different backgrounds, working together to bring change. According to Patrick, the key to creating change together is hearing everyone’s voice and acknowledging what they bring to the conversation.

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
One Heartland,
Sisters of
St. Joseph of
Carondelet
Ministries
Foundation,
Red Ribbon Ride

2014

LAVENDER COMMUNITY AWARDS



Ellen Krug

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Ellie Krug has long been an outspoken advocate for the trans community. Currently working with Call for Justice, she helps low-income people connect with civil legal resources in the Twin Cities, but many know Ellie as a writer, both as a columnist for *Lavender* and her published memoir, *Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change*. But placing all of that aside, Ellie works tirelessly as a public speaker, giving presentations about what it means to be a trans person, even speaking at major corporations (think Target Corp. and others), law firms, and colleges and universities across the country. Calling herself a “post-radical activist,” Ellie doesn’t view her role as breaking down doors or marching in the streets, but instead as one of bit-by-bit educating and connecting with others about the challenges and barriers that trans people face. “I was alive when Dr. King and Bobby Kennedy were still alive, and their messages were that each of us has a responsibility to make this world a better place,” she says. “Because I’m on my second career with not a lot of time left to fulfill it, I see my future as one where I need to do my best to do as much as possible in as short a time as possible. Assuming my health holds out, I plan on pushing the envelope everyday in a variety of ways. I want to be able to look back and say, ‘Yes, I did make a difference.’”

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

Minnesota Lavender Bar Association, Bridge for Youth, Hennepin County Bar Association Diversity Committee, Big Brothers Big Sisters

2014

LAVENDER COMMUNITY AWARDS


Julie Schanke Lyford

Photo by Bellagala

As the owner and Senior Event Producer of Fabulous Functions LLC, Julie has been helping couples navigate the world of weddings. Working hard to promote positive wedding images for GLBTQ couples, Julie has worked to show couples what is possible, even producing a wedding photo shoot for Lavender featuring three real couples in June of 2013. In terms of actual weddings, Julie has volunteered with Twin Cities Pride to head the wedding area for the last three years, done commitment ceremonies and produced wedding shows during Pride, all of which culminated in real weddings taking place this year during Pride. She says, "I've been helping GLBTQ couples get married for over a decade, now it just happens to be legal." For Julie, this story is personal. Her parents married in the '60s, and in the mid-'70s, her dad came out to her mother. They stayed married and he stayed closeted, coming out to Julie when she was 17 (they waited until she graduated high school before they divorced and moved to Des Moines). "My dad didn't believe that I actually didn't care," she says. "To me, when he said, 'I'm gay,' it wasn't like he was saying, 'I'm an alien.' It was more like, 'Oh, just like Ron and Herb,' our family friends." In the future, Julie plans to continue working with couples to help them discover the vendors that can help them create the wedding of their dreams. Conversely, she will also be working with vendors to help them become more inclusive to all GLBTQ couples: doing things like working with them to get affirmative photos for their sites and training their staff to be aware in their conversations.

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

Twin Cities Pride,
Twin Cities
Wedding
Professionals,
Twin Cities
Quorum,
Minnesotans
United for All
Families,
Andrew's Round
Table,
PTA President

2014

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Sarah McPeck

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Comedian Sarah McPeck is currently producing her first documentary, aptly called *Q*, showcasing seven queer Twin Cities performance artists and the community that supports them. As someone who identifies as lesbian and believes whole-heartedly in service to others, GLBT causes are dear to her heart. Sarah donates a lot of performance time to various GLBT fundraisers and groups and works as a public speaker, speaking about coming out late in life and believing in yourself. She says, "When I was first struggling with my own identity there were many community members that just sat and listened to me, let me share my fears, worries, excitement." Thanks to the support of friends, family, and local performers, Sarah has come into her own and strongly supports sharing people's stories, believing that it is through the human connection and reliability that we can build strong communities. She says, "I want to be visible. I believe it is what you see that defines what you believe is possible in the world. It is when we share our stories and come together that we can start building community." This philosophy has made its way into the one-woman show Sarah is producing as an upcoming headliner on an Olivia cruise ship as she works toward building strong GLBT community connections, teaching and performing improv, marrying her fiancée, and being a mom "that tries her best" for her two children.

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

Gadfly, Out Twin Cities Film Festival (previously, not currently), Brave New Workshop and Huge theaters

2014

LAVENDER COMMUNITY AWARDS

**Dave Michela**

Dave (seated left) and his entourage. Photo by Mike Hnida

"I'm definitely not saving the world, especially compared to my fellow nominees. I'm not in the same league as those folks," says Dave Michela, the humble Vice President of Strategy & Services for a digital marketing and technology agency who works in his down time as Dave Em Presents, producing and promoting events for the GLBT community. "I throw parties and fundraisers, and I have a pretty powerful social media megaphone that I can use to help rally support for organizations, causes, and events around town." Sometimes, all the community needs is someone with a wide net to draw everyone together. The original goal was to provide entertainment alternatives on par with what he had seen in many other cities around the country and around the world. Being able to bring a charitable component from time to time has been a welcome plus. And every once in a while he plays "a tiny part" in changing someone's life: "I had a guy come up to me at a recent party who said that he had met his future partner at one of my events a few years ago, and they were now planning their wedding." What does the future hold for Dave? "I have tried unsuccessfully a couple of times to hang up my dancing shoes for good, but I keep coming back like Cher," he says. "The recent death of fellow nominee and friend, Kelly Phillips, has me thinking hard about ways to do more. I'm lucky to have a gift for bringing people together and I'm mindful of the fact that it's a powerful tool that needs to be used for the right reasons."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

The Aliveness Project, MN AIDS Project, Toys for Tots, Human Rights Campaign, Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League, Minnesotans United for All Families, Open Arms

2014

LAVENDER COMMUNITY AWARDS



Paul Mittelstadt, M.D.

Photo courtesy of Minnesota State University, Mankato

As an ER physician for going on 36 years now, Paul Mittelstadt is at the front lines of caring for the community. But he does even more when he is off the clock. For the past 10 years, Paul has been a major donor for scholarships for the GLBT community, especially at Minnesota State University, Mankato. In 2014, Paul set up a permanent endowment to be funded by his estate for that university. "I see the need for support for the GLBT community as an ongoing need," he says. "Having grown up in southern Minnesota, the gender preference bias was a major issue when I was in my undergraduate studies. This bias is still an ongoing issue with many students finally starting to understand and accept their gender preference when in college. These scholarships are intended to let students know it is acceptable to have a leadership role in GLBT issues while in college." Additionally, thanks to Paul's generous support, it will encourage students who do not want to go a large university, or unable to go to an expensive private college, to attend a state university where they can be politically socially active in GLBT causes. "Being gay, and now financially supporting college students who are gay, I want these students to have an easier time financially and emotionally while in college," he says. "My dream is some day to see same-sex issues to be a non-issue. I wish to see orientation to be as much of a non-issue as women's voting rights is considered today."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT: PFund, Prime Timers, GAMMA, St. Joan of Arc, and a major donor for scholarships for the GLBT community especially at the University of Minnesota, Mankato




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Jamie Nabozny

Photo courtesy of Jamie Nabozny

Jamie Nabozny says simply, “My job is to get people to see bullying and harassment as an issue that impacts everyone.” As an out public speaker and consultant on bullying, Jamie’s work has made him a role model not just for kids who are harassed for a variety of reasons, but specifically for those who experience bullying based on GLBT identities, they are able to look to Jamie and think, “If he can make it and be successful and happy, then so can I.” Jamie uses both his public speaking and his website, www.jamienabozny.com, to get his message across and educate. For Jamie, his life experience has influenced his passion for the work that he does: he does this work because he knows what it feels like. “I know what it’s like to be ostracized and humiliated and physically hurt because of those differences and I don’t want anyone else to feel that way,” he says. His passion is clear, and his work has grown to be nationwide, even being invited to speak in states like Alabama and Wyoming, where most people wouldn’t be allowed to speak on such topics. But his work doesn’t stop there. He says, “I have no idea where my future will take me but I know this issue is one I will always care about and be involved in.”

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
Task Force on the Prevention of School Bullying, Southern Poverty Law Center, Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, OutFront Minnesota

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Todd Pernsteiner

Photo by Travis Anderson Photography

It doesn't take money to support causes, as Todd Pernsteiner knows. Todd, who owns a marketing, design, and events company (Pernsteiner Creative Group) has donated his time and talents to numerous GLBT events over the years, including the past six years for Bingo A-GoGo, a fundraiser for Park House and Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. "I learned early on from my parents that being kind and helping people in need is essential to have a well-balanced life," he says. "My parents are very kind and have helped me learn to see the good in others. I choose to work with GLBT organizations because I understand the many challenges our community faces—I want to help those who may not otherwise have a large support system." With family and friends (both straight and gay) who have shown Todd unconditional love over the years, he recognizes the need to give back. He says, "It hasn't always been an easy road but we've come along way since I was the terrified 21-year-old son/brother/uncle coming to terms with who I am."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

Bingo A-GoGo, Red Ribbon Ride, Dining Out for Life, St. Louis Park's Children First, Pathways Health Crisis Resource Center, RE/MAX Results Breast Cancer Ride, and Minnesota Recreation & Park Association

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**Anne Phibbs**

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

For most people, involvement in diversity and equity causes is something that happens after the workday ends. Activities like volunteering, donating, and promoting happen on the side as a hobby or passion project. For Anne Phibbs, it has become her life's work. Anne has worked for over 20 years to help colleges better serve GLBT students and staff, while fostering inclusivity on campuses. Anne's resume includes having worked at Metropolitan State University as Director of GLBT Student Services, followed by a few years as the director of the GLBTA Programs Office at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Even though her positions were within GLBT offices, her work often went beyond GLBT rights, and supported a broader social justice movement against homophobia, racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination. As of 2011, Anne has extended her diversity work with a much wider net as the Director of Education for the University's Office for Equity and Diversity. It takes a great passion and drive to make such a complex and exhaustive topic as equity into a career, but Anne shows no signs of slowing down. Traveling the state with her educative programs and continually coming up with new ways to introduce equity topics into everyday conversations across campus, everyone that comes in contact with her is in awe of her ability to frame these conversations. The ripple effects of her work can be felt by anyone that steps on campus as she empowers staff and faculty, as well as the young adults.

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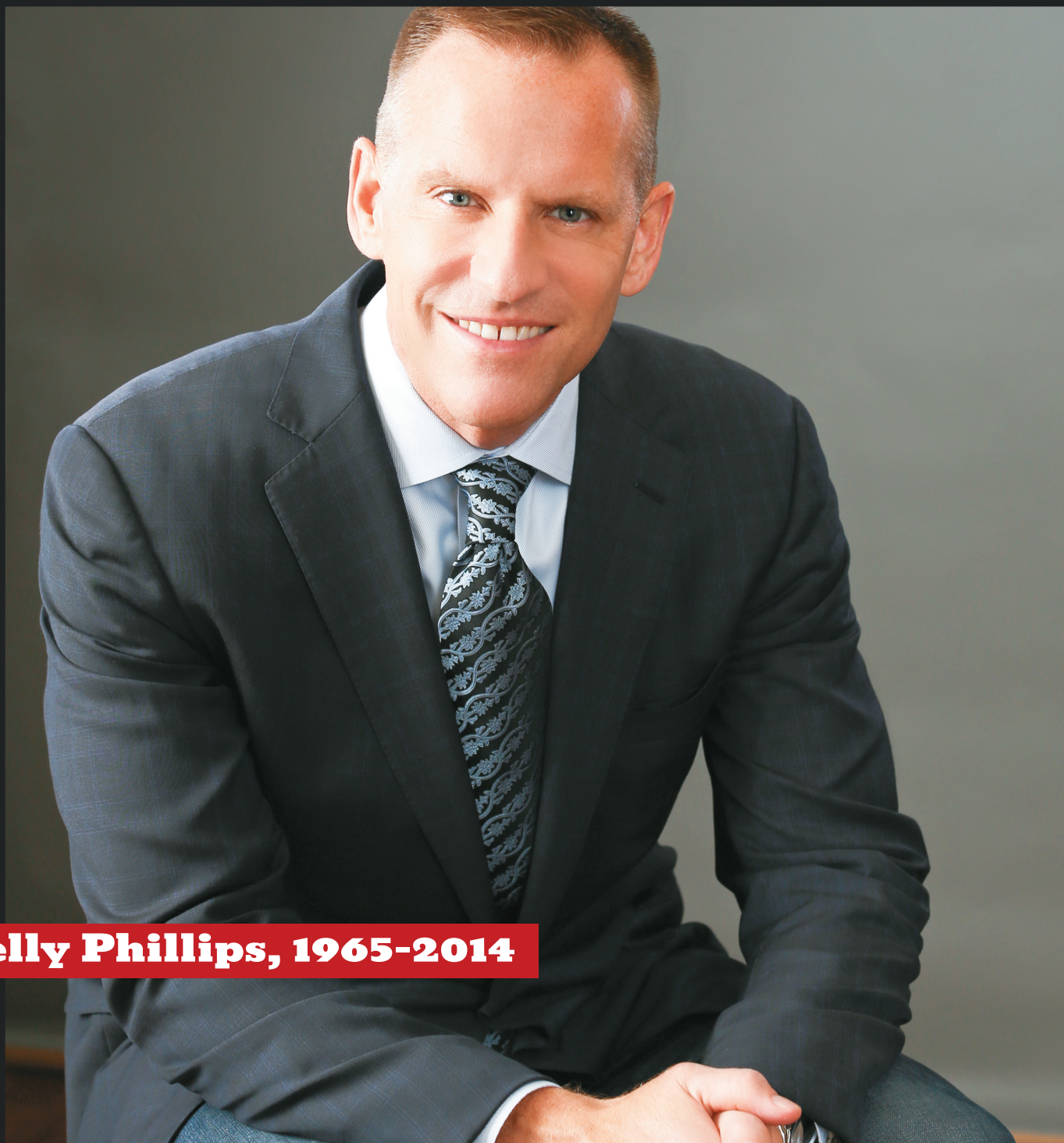
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Kelly Phillips, 1965-2014

Photo by Sarah Pierce Photography

A community leader and vice president at Boston Scientific, Kelly Phillips was known for his political activism and charity. Others may know Kelly as the co-founder of Lush Food Bar in northeast Minneapolis, a popular gathering spot for the GLBT community. As a business owner and Minneapolis resident, Phillips was active in the push for marriage equality in Minnesota, along with other issues facing the community. People whose lives he's touched have said that he just didn't donate. He was knocking on doors. He didn't just sit up on his perch and look down at the world; he got his hands dirty and worked for the community. Not only did he elevate the visibility of the community by founding Lush and working toward political equality, but his unfortunate death also brought to the attention of the state and the media the love and loss of Nathon Bailey, his fiancé, weeks before their wedding. His death serves as an unfortunate example of how the GLBT community lives, loves, and loses, just like the greater society.



Don Quaintance

Photo by Mike Hnida

For many, retirement resembles lounging on a beach somewhere or finally getting around to that endless reading list. But for Don Quaintance, retirement provides the perfect opportunity to get involved. Some people know him as the person behind Pine City Pride, a celebration that is small but mighty, but his work goes much further. Don works to bring awareness of GLBT issues to the rural areas of Minnesota while also working to provide caring support and friendship to gay and bisexual men living in the rural areas. "Building this community is especially important in East Central Minnesota where many GLBT people and their allies live but are often isolated from one another by distance or silence," he says. "By bringing awareness of the GLBT community to the wider rural community, it helps tear down barriers and make us less scary to those who may have the wrong opinion of us. An unknown is always a bit frightening. When they find out that we have the same issues as they do it becomes easier to accept." While Don pledges to continue his work in the rural communities, he has issued a call of action for others as well: "We do need some of the younger generation to step up and continue what has been accomplished these last 15 years."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
Rural AIDS Action Network, Minnesotans United for All Families, East Central MN Men's Circle, East Central MN PRIDE "Picnic in the Park," East Central MN PFLAG

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**D Rojas**

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

You may have seen (or heard) D Rojas as she and the rest of the Dykes on Bikes roar past at the annual Ashley Rukes Pride Parade. D enjoys what she does both as a Union Journeymen Carpenter (for 28 years!) and as president of Dykes on Bikes, among other organizations she supports. Wanting to make a difference, D, along with her three other gay siblings, builds community and encourages community support in all things GLBT. D says, "My goal is to get the word out for all GLBT events, fundraisers, and also to help endorse GLBT politicians and causes. I've got a huge GLBT list on social media, which I use to get the word out." D's mother, Diana Buckanaga, serves as her greatest inspiration (Diana even received a Native Woman of the Year Award in December), along with Oprah Winfrey, who D quotes: "What you'll find along the way will be fantastic, because what you'll find will be yourself."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe,
Dykes on Bikes, TC Pride,
International Gay
Bowling Organization,
Twin Cities Friday
Bowling League, Gay
Games Federation,
NCSRCC Sisters in the
Brotherhood, Northern
Lights Women's
Softball League



Peter Rothstein

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

For many in the community, a trip to the theater is a great chance to relax and escape the stress of day-to-day life. And, thanks to the work of people like Peter Rothstein, GLBT audience members are able to see themselves reflected onstage. "As a theater director I am always looking for opportunities to represent GLBT characters onstage," Peter says. "And to do so in a way that honors our rich history and our profound impact on the current world." As someone whose support network and role models include a 91-year-old mother (who taught him unconditional love), a circle of family and friends (who challenge and inspire him), and his fiancée Omar (who makes him a better human being), Peter believes in the power of communal storytelling. He says, "I believe the stories we choose to tell can dismantle stereotypes and change perceptions of a given culture or community. I believe the theater can be a powerful tool for building circles of compassion and understanding." As for the future? Peter can hardly believe his present: "I feel like I'm already living a future I never thought possible, at least in my lifetime—I am getting married."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
Theater Latte Da,
Guthrie Theater,
Children's Theatre
Company,
Ten Thousand
Things, Illusion
Theater, National
Alliance for
Musical Theater,
Alive and Kickin

2014

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Amy Ruzick & Kay Johnson

Photo by Mike Hnida

Combined, Amy Ruzick and Kay Johnson have 23 years of real estate experience. In 2005, they adopted a mission statement that not only specified working hard for buyers and sellers, but also supporting the communities in which they live and the organizations that serve those communities. This has translated into the duo utilizing their time and business in the form of sponsorships, volunteering, and promoting various nonprofits, rotating their attention across the many great organizations in the Twin Cities. Who has helped them get to where they are? "Definitely our partners, our families, and our friendship with each other," Amy says. "As former life partners, we are able to work well together as well as be there for each other and tag team fluidly." While helping people buy and sell real estate is their passion (they can't imagine doing anything else!), their hearts also lie in supporting the organizations around the Metro and operating by their mission statement. Amy adds, "And we will probably be sporting our giant ruby red slippers down Hennepin Avenue during the Ashley Rukes Pride Parade again in the next year or so."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

Twin Cities Quorum, RECLAIM!, Aliveness Project, PFund Foundation, Northern Lights Women's Softball League, Habitat for Humanity, Project 515, Minnesotans United for All Families, Human Rights Campaign, OutFront Minnesota, Clean Water Action, Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption

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**Becky Saltzman**

Photo by Perry Whitlow

As someone whose passion led her to a Masters degree in nonprofit management, Becky Saltzman is focused on how to further intercultural social justice within the constraints of traditional nonprofits. Working various freelance positions for nonprofits across the Twin Cities, Becky says she tries to do this work by “being authentic and honest with myself on who I am, what I want to be doing or working toward, and how I can give back to the people and community that has cared for me and helped me grow into who I am today.” Keeping these things in mind, she says, helps her to acknowledge the variety of identities within the GLBT community and work across all movements with an intercultural social justice lens. “My Jewish roots have always fueled my activist work,” Becky says. “One of the guiding practices of Judaism is the idea of Tikun Olam or ‘Repairing the World.’ As an out Jewish bisexual femme identified woman, I believe in bringing one’s whole self into the world and creating space for others to do the same.” In the future, Becky recognizes that the ways in which her journey manifests may change, but the desired result is the same: Tikun Olam. “I know what it is like to not be able to live your life fully and authentically and to feel invisible within spaces,” she says. “Therefore, because I am witness to (and part of) the inequities in society, it is my responsibility to be a part of the making the world a better place than I came into it.”

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

PFund Foundation, BECAUSE Conference, Bisexual Organizing Project, Minnesota GLTBA Campus Alliance, OutFront Minnesota, J-Pride, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, GLBTA Programs Office at the U of Minnesota, Bush Foundation, and Events by Lady K

2014 LAVENDER COMMUNITY AWARDS



Corey Smith & Jason Jacobson

Photo by Mindy Gudmundson

Corey works as a manager of diversity and inclusion at Target while Jason is the Director of Individualized Degrees at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Together, they have made it their mission to work for the GLBT community in what they do all year long as well as pour their hearts and talents into the Twin Cities HRC. "In its simplest form, we do this work because there are still GLBT citizens who don't share the same rights and freedoms that should be basic to all humans," Jason says. While both thank various mentors throughout their lives for grounding and inspiring them, they both feel the need to give a special call-out to Judy and Dennis Shepard. Jason says, "They don't have to do the work they do. They do it because it has to be done. Either one of them could quit and say it is just too much. But they don't. They keep forging ahead." The two cite various causes capturing their heart at the moment, including marriage inequality across the nation, employment and other forms of discrimination, and bullying. "While the GLBT landscape in Minnesota may seem great, we both are motivated to do this work because there is still so much more we can accomplish, both inside and outside Minnesota."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
Matthew Shepard Foundation, Clare Housing, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Human Rights Campaign, Minnesotans United for all Families

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Dennis Spears

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

People have seen Dennis Spears' portrayals on stage for years; he was nominated for a Lavender Community Award to shine a light on Spears "being a wonderful representative and advocate for the GLBT community in his time off the stage" as well. The actor and entertainer has notably worked with Illusion Theater on an original production (*Love & Marriage*) in support of marriage equality that left audiences asking difficult questions about just where they stood with respect to the marriage amendment. Spears has even said that people went away from the production with changed minds, stating that "when they saw that it was just about love, and an expression of love, they started to really look at it." As a working actor, Dennis' work has been rewarded with an Ivey Award and induction into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, but it is his passion and drive off the stage that truly endears him to the GLBT community. "I have always tried to remain true to myself, always approaching my work with honesty and an open heart," he says. "My journey has been supported by very strong, energized, and steadfast friends and family members. I plan to continue to work and grow. There is always room for growth."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:
Music Ministry
at Fellowship
Missionary
Baptist Church,
The Capri
Theater,
Plymouth Youth
Center

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Twin Cities Leather & Latté: Karri Plowman, Tynan Fox, Luke Wallrich

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

From the beginning, the owners of Twin Cities Leather & Latté wanted a community space that required the community's involvement in order to work. "The nature of the establishment challenges perceptions of self, stigmas, and identity," says Luke Wallrich, one of the co-owners. "It asks that you drop your personal façades at the door and just be the authentic you. To our surprise, and delight, this reality is beneficial to community building in both the GLBT leather/kink circles and within the GLBT recovery community." A big part of ensuring that the environment could be an active workspace for the GLBT community was creating a meeting room. Luke, along with his business partners Tynan Fox and Karri Plowman, wanted something that was a resource for the many groups and organizations that work to better GLBT lives in the Twin Cities. For just \$10 or a \$25 food and beverage minimum, any group can use the space for 2 hours. Large enough to host up to 25, it is the men's hope that it will soon host regular GLBT-specific recovery meetings throughout the week, welcoming anyone interested to start one. "Community First' has been the sole mission of the company since it was conceived and we're learning new ways to fulfill and engage that mission with each day we are open," Luke says. "As long as the GLBT community will have us, we'll be here working to make it better. We talk about what we try and do for the community, but really we wouldn't be here without it. From our build-out to present day, we have had tremendous help from friends, community members, passersby, and those who also believe in fostering something great."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT: MN Leather Pride, Atoms of Minneapolis, GLBT in Recovery - Twin Cities, Twin Cities Quorum, Metro IBA, Uptown Association, CARAG, Lowry Hill Business Association



Wingspan Life Resources

(Left to right): Wingspan Life Resources Program Director, Maureen Merrill; Development Officer, Darolyn Gray; and Rainbow Support Group members Karina and Tim. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

For over 41 years, Wingspan Life Resources has served adults with developmental disabilities in the greater Twin Cities. Based in St. Paul, Wingspan's mission is to help people who are challenged by age, ability, or health to realize their unique gifts and dreams. In 2001, Wingspan started Rainbow Support Group of Minnesota to support GLBT adults who have developmental disabilities, and the program's focus is on providing information and peer support, reducing isolation, and increasing safety. "GLBT adults with developmental disabilities are vulnerable, often misunderstood, and represent an underserved niche in the community," says Darolyn Gray, Wingspan's Development Officer. According to Gray, Wingspan was inspired by the work of Dr. John Allen who, in his book *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Retardation*, wrote in 2003, "Although the process of coming out is complicated, it is doubtful that even those who are most understanding can imagine the obstacle of trying to navigate the intricacies of sexual orientation discovery by a person with a developmental disability."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

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Jean Zimmerman

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Jean Zimmerman is happy with her life. Married to her wife, Rose Ahmann, for just under a year (though in their hearts, minds, and through the church it's been 14 years), Jean has three stepdaughters and nine grandchildren. Jean works as a technology education teacher at Wayzata High School where she co-advises the Gay-Straight Alliance. With so much bliss around her, why devote herself to service for the community? "Because I can, quite simply," she says. "Also, life is about giving back when you are able, and about helping others be successful and at peace. Social justice issues are of great importance and a passion for me. It's a 'Nobody's equal until everyone's equal' sort of thing." With retirement looming five years away, it will undoubtedly mean new adventures and challenges in Jean's life. "I would really like to retire to Costa Rica, maybe teach in an English-language immersion school, but that's a bit far for the family to stay connected, so who knows?" she says. "I do know that I will continue with my sometimes-rabid social justice reform tactics, and probably be far mouthier in my old age in my attempts to enlighten and educate the masses."

ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT: Red Ribbon Ride, All God's Children-MCC Worship, All God's Children-MCC Social Justice, Gay-Straight Alliance (Wayzata High School)

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The Double: Male Eros, Friendships, and Mentoring—from Gilgamesh to Kerouac
Edward C. Sellner

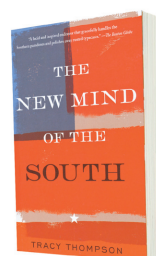
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Sellner leads the reader through an examination of the Double in both history and literature, from the Epic of Gilgamesh and the bonding of Gilgamesh and Enkidu, through Homer's saga of Achilles and Patroclus to St. Augustine and his short-lived beloved son Adeodatus, up to modern day's Jack Kerouac and his best friend Neal Cassady. Doubles explored here are of the same gender, and Sellner makes a compelling case for men's need for a soul figure not only to complete himself, but that each may help the other to his highest self. The examples offered here of mentoring, friendship, and love show by their transformative power just how much has been lost in our own time through repression of these crucial forms of male bonding.

The New Mind of the South

Tracy Thompson
Free Press
\$16



Using W.J. Cash's 1941 classic, *The Mind of the South*, as a starting point, investigative reporter and native Atlantan Thompson examines her "new" South through interview, travelogue, research, and memoir. No argument, the South is still a country of its own, but is changing, even from Thompson's own 1960s: ethnic diversity, for example. While North Carolina has seen a 274 percent increase in foreign-born residents in just over two decades, many of these folks do not think of themselves as being in the South, but in "el norte." Thompson effectively tackles a number of issues, none more important than the persistent notion that the Civil War was fought over states rights, not slavery. Briskly paced, written with clarity and humor, Thompson raises many questions for debate.

Lincoln Avenue: Chicago Stories

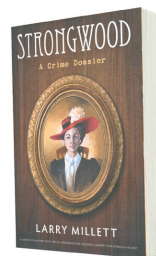
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Squares and Rebels
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Chicagoan or not, you'll have a feel for it—at least in the 1970s-80s as a young gay man. Different characters, places, moods in these twelve vignettes, but always the questions besetting the young: Who am I now? Who will I be? Who do I want and who will want *me*? Young men yearning to be free, yet the stories are anchored in family—even more specifically the family car—starting as they do with "Your Father's Car" and ending with "Your Mother's Car," blending sadness and humor and the wry knowledge as the final words proclaim, "You know nothing will ever be the same, not you, not your mother's car." Author Shapiro will speak at Magers and Quinn Booksellers, Uptown Minneapolis, October 7, 7PM.

Strongwood: A Crime Dossier

Larry Millett
University of Minnesota Press
\$24.95



Minneapolis: 1903-1904. The Cities are agog over the murder trial of Addie Strongwood, admitted killer of her lover, Michael Masterson. Addie coolly pleads self-defense: the man she believed loved her was false and dangerous. The prosecution paints Addie as a liar and blackmailer, Masterson as a naïve, wealthy young man caught in a fortune hunter's clutches. Millett, author of non-fiction works *Lost Twin Cities* and *Once There Were Castles*, skillfully weaves Minneapolis history into this fictional reconstruction of court testimony, newspaper articles, and Sherlock Holmes. Yes, Sherlock Holmes. Holmes is back in town, and interests himself in Addie's story long enough to unearth critical evidence. A clever and not so straight-forward exploration of a crime and of the sharply divided worlds of the rich and poor. ■

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2015 Dodge Challenger



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What makes a legend is where it came from. For 1970, Dodge was the last brand to introduce a “ponycar.” These were muscle cars on smaller, tighter bodies that gave their larger

brethren nightmares on the drag strip. These cars also raced on road courses in the Trans-Am circuit, instead of NASCAR. These cars were made redundant thanks to an oil crisis and other Federal regulations.

Today, there is a horsepower war. This time, the sky’s the limit. Many players are in this game. In 2007, Dodge re-introduced the Challenger on a shortened rear-wheel drive platform with a body that took its cues from

1970. The legend was reborn and its enthusiasts responded. For 2015, the Challenger went through some revisions inside and out. To celebrate, I drove an R/T Scat Pack model to see if the legend still remains true to its lore.

Before we go on, I need to explain what a “Scat Pack” is. The name was first used for a marketing program to promote Dodge’s muscle car lineup in 1968 and connect with its owners and fans through newsletters and other related

paraphernalia. For 2014, Dodge revived the name as a three-stage package that added more power to the Challenger, Charger, and Dart. For 2015, the Scat Pack name is now an upgrade package to the Challenger R/T model. The biggest upgrade is under the hood; however, there is more to this than just a name from the past.

From the outside, one cannot mistake the Challenger from any other car on the road. It continues the familiar retro shape that began in 2008 and reminded us of the original 1970–74 model. The notchback coupe design starts off with a long hood and a deep snout framed by quad headlamps. As with the prior Challenger, the inboard lamps are turn signals with LED lighting ringing all four lamp units.

The big change for 2015 is a new grille texture. The dual cowl inserts are inspired by the 1971 Challenger. Some models have them in chrome, but not the R/T Scat Pack model. The grille is in monotone black with the Challenger name on one cowl, the R/T badge on the other. The 1971 influence is seen out back with split tail lights replacing the full-width cluster of prior models. The Scat Pack comes with black 20-inch aluminum wheels wearing Goodyear Eagle F1 rubber, a huge finish to the look of this Sublime beast and its black stripes out back. In all, this Challenger retains its heritage, while continuing with its relevant look and stature.

Compared to the 2008–2013 models, the huge change is inside. A new instrument panel is now more focused than ever, with the center stack canted toward the driver. The instrument cluster includes a larger TFT screen providing all vehicle, trip, fuel consumption, and performance readings (including lap times and lateral acceleration). You will find that some of these screens have been fashioned by the retro-designed tachometer and speedometer on each side.

The canted center stack houses the 8.4-inch UConnect Touch screen. In this model, the screen featured SiriusXM satellite radio, a navigation system, climate control settings, ac-

cess to add apps to your infotainment system, and the Performance Pages. This is where you would be able to customize your drive mode settings, engage launch control, and create settings for other performance-oriented readings. If you are more concerned with your sound, Alpine provides nine speakers throughout the cabin with a subwoofer included.

The front seats are huge with deep bolstering. The inserts are suede with Nappa leather bolsters and the R/T logo on the seatbacks, providing true track-inspired seating for the front occupants. The same upholstery is fashioned for the rear seat. Room is not as plentiful, though two children would be fine in back with appropriate safety seats.

The one retro touch that remains is the center console with a shape that goes back to 1971. The rest of the console is all modern, with a series of switches within reach of the driver below the center stack and the toggle gearlever for the new TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission.

The 6.4-liter V8 under the hood of the R/T Scat Pack used to power the Challenger SRT. While the new SRT gets the 707-horsepower supercharged 6.2-liter V8, this engine—also known as the “392”—makes do with just 485 horsepower. Not that it is a bad thing...it is absolutely amazing. There is all the power you need with just a quick tap from the accelerator pedal. This engine has a soundtrack that is pure rock-n-roll with a mighty roar and a burble that would bring you back to the days when the muscle car ruled the road.

I love my exhaust sounds. I may prefer the classic tones of a fine Italian car, but there is nothing like the visceral tones of classic rock, or straight-up funk, coming from the back of a Chally.

To manage this power, the aforementioned ZF-designed TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic sends the 392's power back to the rear wheels. Normally a smooth shifting transmission, it has a heritage feel instead, giving you the feeling when

engines and transmissions loved to take on the road instead of being caught in traffic. You could also choose a Sport mode where you can easily access the transmission through its paddle shifters for more track inspired gear changes while applying maximum grip down to the road.

Though it has a firm suspension setup, the overall ride is much more compliant and comfortable on smooth surfaces. Rougher surfaces reveal resistance to the dampers, but not enough to cause concern. Balance is the best word to describe the Challenger R/T Scat Pack's driving dynamics. It corners as flat as possible, but with some give to make things comfortable.

No matter if you set it to Normal or Sport, the steering feels exact and weighted. There is absolutely no play in the wheel and it has a great reaction to each turn. The turning radius might not be tight, but wheel response is excellent to compensate on most u-turns. Brakes are very strong and sharp, thanks to its Brembo setup and huge rotors on all four wheels.

One does not buy a Challenger for its fuel economy. Using strictly Premium fuel, the R/T Scat Pack managed an average of 18.6MPG. This is above the average Chrysler said it would achieve.

The Challenger lineup starts off with a 305-horsepower V6-powered SXT model at \$26,995. Our tester resides in the middle of the lineup, an upgrade on the R/T model with a sticker price of \$46,165 as equipped. If you are indeed ready to handle the Hellcat, pricing for the supercharged SRT model starts at \$59,995.

The 2015 Dodge Challenger begins a new chapter in its story. It is one that not only celebrates the Hellcat, but the progress the modern Chally has made. The sound and fury is visceral, but it offers plenty of drive and safety technology to keep you engaged with the road.

The Dodge Challenger is a car you would take seriously. However, it is the most fun anyone could have behind the wheel. That is how you achieve legendary status. ■



Death By Cards, Part 1

I have made many enemies over the years in the competitive bridge world. But the one I made last night just might kill me.

Before I identify my prospective murderer, let me back up a step. Since I assume that most of you are under the age of 80—the median age of bridge players—you need a bit of background on the murky world of competitive bridge.

You probably think of the game as a musty 1950s pastime designed to amuse refined ladies in fancy hats. But it's evolved since then. Those housewives have turned into crotchety old folks who have been disappointed by life and their children and are now looking to avenge their lost youth through the game of bridge. Throw into the mix a group of awkward, super smart weirdos (Bill Gates is a player) who couldn't quite make it in the world of chess and are too old for all-night matches of Dungeons & Dragons, and you've got a good idea of the population of an average bridge tournament.

I started playing bridge in my 30s because I thought it was a good way to meet girls. After all, I grew up watching my mom host her lady friends at weekly bridge matches. I assumed those ladies had lesbian daughters that were equally captivated by this genteel game of skill, and that I'd find these offspring at local bridge clubs. But I was wrong. Apparently, I'm the only lesbian in the world who plays bridge. Every other lesbian is too busy playing softball or bowling or doing some other sport that employs blunt instruments.

As the older folks die off, I'm increasingly left bobbing in a sea of odd men who have no sex lives and, therefore, can focus all their testosterone on their bridge opponents. Since these are the type of guys who were never top picks for schoolyard sports teams, they never learned how to harness the aggression that comes with competitive play. As a

result, they use a fierce combination of cold intelligence, poor social skills, and terrible hygiene to irritate the hell out of me. (And I'm usually cranky to begin with because of the lack of ladies at tournaments.)

Last night, my bridge partner—a charming gay gent—and I decided to try a new club. (Although no lesbians play the game, there are plenty of gay guys in the bridge world, which offers welcome respite from the game's nerdish intensity and guarantees the tournament snack table will be stocked with delightful treats.)

As soon as we walked into the club, I sighed in sorrow. I'm ever hopeful that we'll stumble upon the Brigadoon of Bridge—a magical club that has corralled every lesbian card player in the galaxy. But, like Brigadoon, this club materializes only for one day every century. (Lesbian readers: if you don't get the *Brigadoon* reference you need to learn your Broadway showtunes! Yet another area where I'm disappointed in the dearth of female companionship.)

Instead, the room was packed with guys of indeterminate age and bad posture. I immediately girded myself for what was sure to be a highly annoying evening, and unhooked a blouse button to expose more cleavage. This is my most effective weapon against these boys—distracting their focus away from their cards and into the maw of my spectacular breasts.

My partner and I took a seat at a table and were soon joined by opponents, one of whom would vow to murder me by the end of the game!

(Stay tuned for Part Two of this riveting tale to learn if I escape with my life!) ■

Bridge players: if you're looking for a partner to play online, please contact me at jen6jen@me.com.

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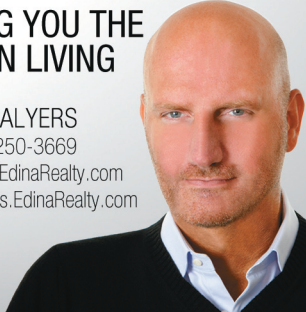
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www.minneapolismoviebears.com

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Crosswinds

"Have you heard from him?" a woman says into a cordless telephone. She's pacing her living room, her five-year-old son and his three-year-old sister are sleeping on the couch; the *Lego Movie* DVD menu repeats on the television. Her husband has gone to search the neighborhood.

It's after midnight in Crosswinds, a cookie-cutter, select-your-floor-plan subdivision. Every third house looks almost identical, only in different colors. Families in the neighborhood are all middle-class PTA-involved SUV owners. Their boys are on the same sports teams. Wives travel downtown for girls' weekends once a month, where they rent hotel rooms and visit Macy's and fantasize at Kitchen Window.

Felicity is her name, the woman in her living room. Her eyes are red and watery. Shawn is her son, a 15-year-old honor roll student and close runner-up for homecoming king. It's one o'clock on a Wednesday morning and he isn't home. He's always home by six for dinner, and he always, always, always, responds to text messages.

"I don't know where he is. I keep texting him. He isn't responding. I haven't seen him since Sunday," says Cassie, one of Shawn's neighborhood friends, from the other end of the line.

Bob is Shawn's father, a Corporate America middle manager who has work happy hours on Thursdays and poker nights every other Saturday. He's scanning the lawns and the vacant lots of Crosswinds, though he knows it'll do no

good. Wherever Shawn is, he isn't here.

Felicity calls Shawn's phone again. Like every other attempt—now numbering in the hundreds—it rings and rings until, "Hey, this is Shawn. Leave a message."

Bob squints through his windshield. Squinting doesn't help. Or maybe it does. He squints anyway.

Shawn wouldn't run away. He doesn't do that stuff. And he's happy. There's nothing wrong with him. *He'll have a helluva excuse, I'm sure.*

Bob leaves Crosswinds to scan the sides of the "main" road outside the subdivision. The speed limit is 45 out here. It's 19 in Crosswinds.

He'll find Shawn, he knows it. He'll find his son. He will.

There's a blue Corolla somewhere in the woods off the main road; Bob passes it by without noticing. Inside the car is the blank face of a 15-year-old boy, eyes half-open, staring into the Toyota logo on the Corolla's steering wheel. There's a hole through the driver-side headrest and a dent in its roof.

"No, no," Felicity says into the phone. "There are no 'signs of mental distress.' How dare you suggest that! He didn't run away. He's in trouble somewhere." The police, as they've said a thousand times, have nothing. "We'll call you the minute we find something," they tell her. Again.

Earlier in the week Cassie's father couldn't find the pistol he uses at Pioneer Sport, a gun range he visits with friends, where he taught his wife how to use a gun for protection. He

was terrified that one of his kids had found it—he keeps it "hidden"—and immediately thought of himself as the next CNN story about the negligent father responsible for, well, you know.

Shawn's dinner is wrapped up in tin foil on a dinner plate that Felicity bought as a package set. *Eight coffee mugs, eight salad bowls, AND eight dinner plates for \$14.99.* Shawn will want food when he returns. The mac-and-cheese has been sitting out too long, but Felicity puts it in the fridge anyway. She tries calling Shawn again.

"Goddammit, Shawn. Where are you?" Bob notices his air conditioner is on high. He turns it off and rolls down the windows. He starts yelling Shawn's name.

There's a phone in the cup-holder of the Corolla in the woods. The phone lights up and starts vibrating. On the screen, in Helvetica: "Home." The call will go unanswered.

Felicity will freeze Shawn's room in time. Bob will hate Cassie's father even though he knows he shouldn't. The Channel 3 news will spend exactly seven minutes on the story and the evening anchor will flawlessly transition to a story about the weather. There will be a vigil at First Baptist Church. The Home of the Fighting Tigers will offer counseling to students.

Everyone will ask why.

There are 4,600 child and young adult suicides every year in the United States. Parents don't always catch the warning signs. Visit the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at SuicidePreventionLifeline.org. ■